The magazine for children

GOKULAM

FEBRUARY 2005
RS.8/-

OVER TO I.T. CITY...

SEMAS

ISO-9001:2000 Certified

Academy of Excellence

Advanced Japanese Abacus Education

Prize Winners with Chairman, Managing Director, Instructors and Parents in the 6th PAMA - International Competition held at Taiwan on 25th Dec. 2004

Organised by Taiwan Chamber of Commerce

7th PAMA - International Competition will be held on Dec.2005 at Singapore

SEMAS

Cultivates Six Abilities

Insight
Inspiration
Memorization
Concentration
Information Processing
Speed Reading & Listening

SEMAS solicits GLOBAL franchisee

Corporate Office SEMAS Pvt. Ltd.
545, 14th Street, 4th Sector, K.K. Nagar, Chennai 600 078.
Ph.: 24722550, 24722505, Fax : 24801083
www.semasindia.com Email : info@semasindia.com

THE ALIENS

-Prize winning story 4

POTTER RECAP!

28

65 OVER TO I.T. CITY...

BANGALORE Special

Tomo in the Alps - 12

Quakes and Waves *(Tech Talk)* - 32

The Spy Kids *(Serial story)* - 36

Dreams Made of Stone! *(Temple Treasures)* - 44

Breathtaking Paradise *(Travel)* - 72

FEBRUARY 2005 Vol. XVII, No.8

GOKULAM

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

GOKULAM
(A Kalki Group Publication)
printed and published at
Bharathan Press
on behalf of
Bharathan Publications
Private Limited
Kalki buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal,
Chennai - 600 032
editor, printer and publisher :
K. Rajendran
layouts :
S. Stephen
P.R.Rajan
telephones :
22345622, 23, 24
fax :
044 - 22345621
e-mails :
editorial :
gokulam@kalkiweekly.com
subscriptions :
subscription@kalkiweekly.com
other information :
info@kalkiweekly.com
subscription rates :
inland : annual
Rs.96/-
overseas : annual
25 US Dollars
Sri Lanka Rs.425
EXCLUSIVE
DISTRIBUTOR IN INDIA
(other than Southern States)
India Book House Pvt.Ltd.
Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Pune,
Delhi, Kolkatta
The Magazine for Children

THE LESSONS OF TSUNAMI

Dear Reader...

"It is a national calamity but let us convert it into a national opportunity" said our Prime Minister, soon after the Tsunami struck some of our coastal states, causing heavy damage to life and property.

What Dr. Manmohan Singh said is a timely and beautiful thought and is applicable not only to major disasters but to lesser tragedies as well.

Scientists, engineers and government agencies are now interacting to find out why tsunami occurs and how it strikes. How to instal a forewarning system..? How much time will be available even if forewarned? How to create a disaster management system and make it functional at an instant's notice, so that loss of life and property is minimized? How should the system function to quickly rehabilitate people affected and so on.

Such an exercise is essential even in the case of smaller setbacks, like for instance, a failure in the annual exams. Ask yourself the following questions.

Why did this happen?

Can it happen again?

How can I prevent it?

What are the steps to be taken?

Work out a plan of action and follow it with determination. You would have converted failure as a foundation to your success.

Think and act positive.

Good luck!

- Editor

✉ I am a regular subscriber of Gokulam and eagerly await each issue. I love the 'penpals' column which has got me several friends outside my state.

- Prachi & Rebati, Age 16, Bhubaneswar

✉ Gokulam is an excellent magazine which has helped me improve my writing skills. We would be delighted if you could give us a centrespread poster of Smt. M.S. Subbulakshmi.

- S. Prashanti, Std VI, Chennai

✉ The articles in Gokulam are fabulous. 'Career Guidance' and 'Hello Doctor' Columns are very helpful. 'Improve your English' is absolutely great.

- Syed Humaid, Age 15, Bangalore

✉ The 'Mumbai Special' (January 2005 issue) was really very interesting. I am proud to be a Mumbaikar.

- Rohit Mane, Age 17, Mumbai

✉ The year planner is very useful. The article "Sankranti - Cultural Diversity" and "The Spy Kids" are excellent. I am waiting for the February Issue.

- Shruthi Iyengar, Std VIII, Kolkata

✉ As usual, a fantastic issue of Gokulam. But, you had missed out Republic Day since most articles were Bombay based. Looking forward to the next issue with less of 'City special' and more of fun!

- Mary Jacob, Std VIII, Tuticorin

✉ Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore was the first Asian to receive the Nobel Prize in the year 1913, and not in 1931 as published in the Personality Column (World Poet) in the December Issue of Gokulam. Kindly confirm.

- Biplal Dev, Chattisgarh

Misprint regretted.

The offices of Gokulam were not affected in any manner due to the tsunami. We thank readers from all over the country who have expressed concern.

- Editor

In a village called Jarakpur, lived Raju and his kid sister Radha. While Raju attended school everyday, Radha helped her mother at home.

One day when Raju came back in the afternoon, the siblings went to the fields to play. Suddenly they saw a dark object which seemed to be dropping down from the skies. It looked... like a spaceship. Yes, it was one! A huge blue one.

Radha screamed for help while Raju put his finger on his lips and motioned her to keep quiet.

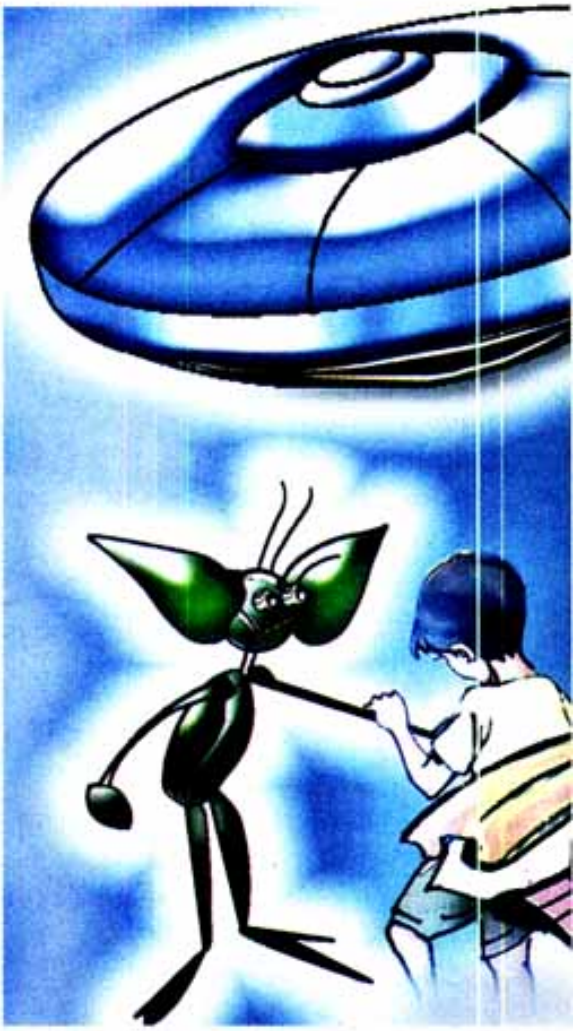
"Seems to be an alien invasion!" Raju whispered. They watched with disbelief as the spaceship landed close to them on the ground. The door slid open. A ladder dropped out...

Out came two aliens. They looked really terrible. Both their eyes looked like balls while their ears resembled an elephant's! Their hands and legs seemed to be thin pipes and they had skinny bodies. Radha nearly fainted with fear at the sight of these figures.

The aliens were walking towards them. Upon reaching them, they stretched out their hands and touched them. There was a 'beep' sound and the kids fell unconscious.

Next they knew was that they were inside the spaceship with five aliens surrounding them. They closed their eyes with fright.

"Don't worry, we won't harm you", said an alien. "We're from planet Zuzu on a routine inspection. We find you 'Earthians' have pol-



luted your place - the land, the water and even outer space! Shame on you! Last time we came, there was so much greenery and now there's only rubbish everywhere."

THE ALIENS

"Chemicals in the fields, smoke from factories nearby, oil spills and atomic waste in the water bodies. As though that's not enough, you send satellites into outer space, many of which have served their purpose, but are still orbiting. You have converted outer space into a garbage dump!" Another alien elaborated.

"But why are you telling us all this. Tell the governments, the scientists the superpowers..." Raju spoke bravely.

"Because your planet will get destroyed, if this continues. You must start spreading the message, spearhead a movement! Scientists and superpowers have a single track mind. They don't realise the outcome. Every action has an equal and opposite reaction.

"SAVE YOUR PLANET, starting today. We'll let you go, but on condition that when we come next time, when you'll be adults, Earth should be a better place to live in!"

Raju and Radha nodded. They vowed to set things right. They made a beginning by spreading the message through Gokulam to readers all across the globe!

- Anjali Das, Std VIII,
Maharishi Vidya Mandir,
Hosur

Dear Grandma,

I find social studies very difficult and so boring. How to develop an interest in it?

- Ananya Mishra, Bhubaneswar

Dear Ananya,

It is not possible for every student to be interested in every subject that he or she reads. There is always a favourite subject, not so favourite and boring subjects. You can't have everything your way. You need basic knowledge in the subjects you are now reading. You can specialize in your favourite subject when you enter junior college. Until then, you have to put up with subjects you do not like. The best way to acquire interest in such subjects is to seek knowledge on the subjects by reading books other than your text book. If they are colourfully illustrated you will find your interest kindled. You can also browse the internet. Once you become familiar with the subject, your text book will no longer be a burden.

•••

My sister wants to be an actress but my parents say that the profession is unsafe for girls and are not allowing her to become an actress. How can she handle the situation?

- Rupai, Kharagpur

Dear Rupai,

Your parents are not totally wrong. Yes, in a male dominated profession, being a cine actress is unsafe to a certain extent. But if your sister is determined to make it safe for herself, she can, by being vigilant. She must realise that the glamour world has its pitfalls and should guard herself against them. Nothing succeeds like success and if she is really outstanding in the acting profession, she can pull the strings instead of becoming a puppet herself! Let her not be in a hurry.

Let her first try out her talents in school and college dramas and if she proves herself, more opportunities will come her way and she can look forward to her parent's support in climbing the ladder of

success.

•••

I commit a lot of spelling mistakes in my exams. How can I avoid this?

- Krithika Srinivasan, Chennai

Dear Krithika,

The best way to avoid spelling mistakes is to write your lessons by referring to your text books instead of mugging them up by reading aloud. Select the possible questions that may be asked in the exams and write down the questions and answers. If you follow this method of studying regularly you will not commit spelling mistakes in your exams.

•••

I am very good at badminton. But none of my friends like it. So I have to play the game with boys. But then my friends tease me. What am I to do?

- Shivani Deshpande, Chattisgarh

Dear Shivani,

You have to make up your mind as to whether your friends or the game is more important to you. If you like the game so much and you are good at it, go ahead and play the game with boys. Just ignore the teasing by your friends. In course of time they will become more interested in watching you play rather than in teasing you!

•••

I have a terrible stage fright and I am unable to give a speech, sing or dance in front of an audience. what should I do?

- K. Sukanya, Karaikal

Dear Sukanya,

You have to build up self confidence. You will also have to practise hard so that you are sure of performing well. Practise in front of a mirror, then before your parents and siblings. Perform at home with close relatives and friends as the audience. You will overcome your nervousness and shyness, in stages.

Love,

Grandmaworm

Requesting readers to tell us all about the Cultural capital of India - Kolkata and its environs. The 'sweet' city is famous for its rosogollas, poetry, art, music, literature etc and we are looking forward to receiving plenty of poems, stories, experiences etc. from you about Kolkata.

Only remember to mark 'Kolkata Special' on the envelope and rush them to us (with pictures, if possible) by 24.2.05 to enable us to feature them in the April 2005 issue of GOKULAM.

KOLKATA CITY SPECIAL!

STORY TIME
WITH UNCLE PAI

Do you share magic moments of reading a story along with your child ?
Do you ask your child to tell you a story ?

"Through ***Story Time with Uncle Pai,*** the cherished values of our culture are being communicated to young children by Uncle Pai, whose magic spell has been felt by the young and the old for more than 25 years."

- Lokasatta

Why Stories ?

Recent studies indicate that stories read and heard in childhood have a lasting influence in later life.

Price (VCDs) : Rs. 130

For 5 to 8-year-olds

Price (books) : Rs. 25

For 8 to 11-year-olds

Price (books) : Rs. 40

Producers of Books, VCDs, DVDs

Lalit Media & Education Ltd.

305 - A, Manish Commercial Centre, Dr. Annie Besant Rd. Worli, Mumbai 400 025.
Tele. 022 - 24936702, 022 - 39600171 email : lalitmedia@yahoo.com

ISKCON Temple at Chord Road is a unique temple in the city. Built in 1991, atop the Hare Krishna Hill, it is not just a temple but an institution which spreads messages about our heritage, world-wide.

- Sindhu .V. Rao & Brinda, Std IX,
Little Lilly's English School, Bangalore

British Prime minister Sir Winston Churchill, started his writing career from Bangalore. Much later, in 1953, he won the Nobel Prize for literature.

M. Kiran, Std X, Bangalore

BANGALORE *Special*

King Veera Ballala, in the 10th century, once lost his way on a hunting trip. An old lady offered the hungry and tired king, 'Benda Kala' (boiled beans) for dinner. The King named the town 'Bendakal-ooru' or 'Boiled Beans Town' to commemorate the event. Kempe Gowda - I who built the city in 1537 A.D. changed the name to 'Bengalooru' (presently Bangalore).

- M. Shiva Prakash,
Std VIII, Bangalore

• Kempe Gowda - I

A full two months after Jayendrar's arrest, the Supreme Court granted him bail, which was earlier refused by the lower courts. The Supreme Court said that it found no direct evidence to prove that the Kanchi Sankaracharya had any link with the Sankararaman murder case. This meant that the evidence submitted by the prosecution was weak. However, the Supreme court also cautioned that its judgement was only in connection with the bail application and that the case had to be conducted in the lower courts, in accordance with the normal procedures of law.

The same evening the Junior Acharya, Vijayendrar was arrested in connection with the same case. What hurt the feelings of the devotees of the Kanchi Sankara Mutt was that a big posse of police men entered the Mutt without even a search warrant and did not even wait for the Junior Acharya to complete his pooja, before arresting him. This, inspite of the fact that Vijayendrar had been cooperating with the police all along, in their investigations.

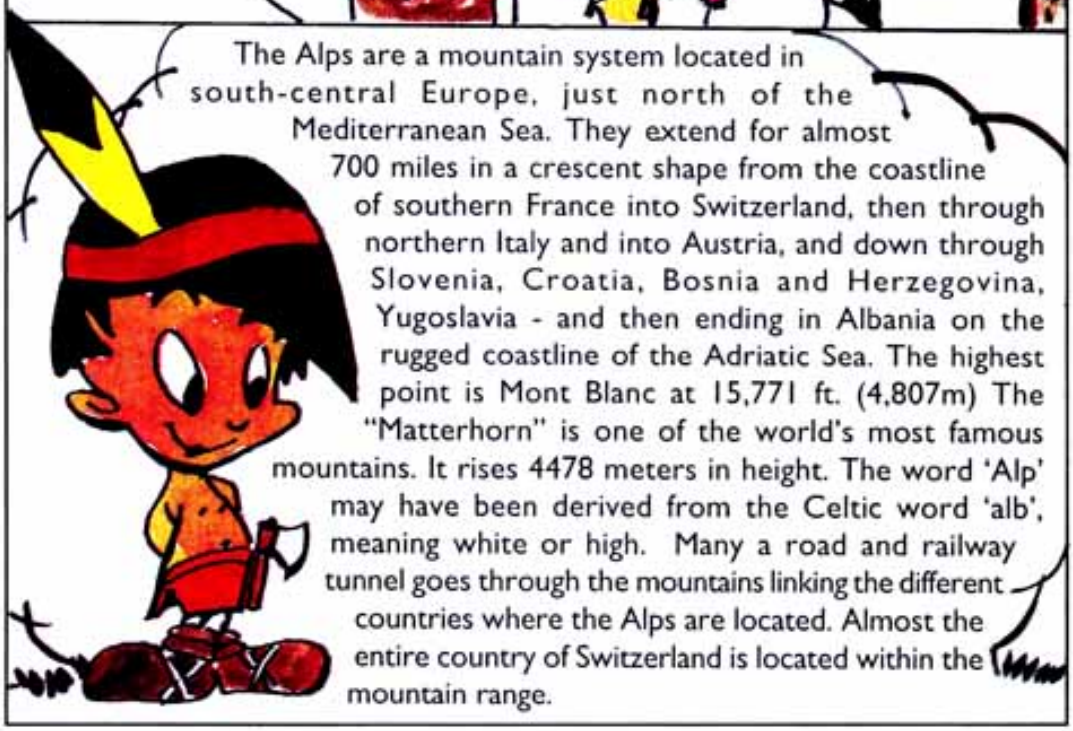
Tsunamis hit the shores of several states in India and took its toll of lives and property. But our loss is nothing compared to the disaster suffered by Sri Lanka and Indonesia. This is not to belittle the suffering of our countrymen in coastal areas, which is unprecedented. State and Central governments as well as NGOS and individuals are doing wonderful work in rehabilitation. Relief in the form of money, men and materials is pouring in.

Every year on the occasion of Pongal, the harvest festival, "Jallikkattu" takes place in some towns and villages of Tamilnadu. This

BAN THIS BLOODY SPORT!

is a sport which requires able-bodied men to overcome ferocious bulls and tame them. It is a bloody sport and atleast four or five youth were gored to death this year by the bulls, while several others were injured including a few spectators, some seriously. These deaths and injuries occur in varying numbers each year and there is a strong section of opinion which wants this gory sport to be banned.

TOMO IN THE ALPS
Story & Pictures J.disney
LOOK AT THE SKI JUMPER!
WOW! HE MUST BE A CHAMPION!
I KNEW YOU WILL LAND HERE. NOW GET INTO THE CHOPPER.
WHAT THE...
NOW I CAN ASK FOR A BIG RANSOM!
TOMO YOUR AXE...!
YESSS... I GOT YOU
CLUNK!
GOT TO ESCAPE!
YOU WONT CATCH ME!
WE SAVED THE CHAMP...
..BUT THE CROOK IS ESCAPING!



The Alps are a mountain system located in south-central Europe, just north of the Mediterranean Sea. They extend for almost 700 miles in a crescent shape from the coastline of southern France into Switzerland, then through northern Italy and into Austria, and down through Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Yugoslavia - and then ending in Albania on the rugged coastline of the Adriatic Sea. The highest point is Mont Blanc at 15,771 ft. (4,807m) The "Matterhorn" is one of the world's most famous mountains. It rises 4478 meters in height. The word 'Alp' may have been derived from the Celtic word 'alb', meaning white or high. Many a road and railway tunnel goes through the mountains linking the different countries where the Alps are located. Almost the entire country of Switzerland is located within the mountain range.

INDIAN OR N.R.I. SCIENTIST?

It is better to go abroad for research. Most people in Indian educational institutions and government. research labs etc., are selfish and corrupt. Even colleges allot seats on the basis of caste and money power and not on merit. Unless all this changes, India cannot become a 'developed nation.'

- Ajit Rengaswamy, Std VI, Rotary School, Madurai

I am presently studying in Dubai, but my aim is to pursue research in India. India offers many modern facilities and equipment and my aim is to invent new techniques in the field of agriculture and help poor farmers in India. Why should we work for another country when our country needs us?

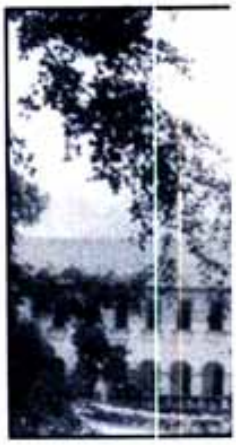
- Anirudh Rajseshan, Std VII, Indian High School, Dubai

Our country has produced many scientists who can be role models like J.C. Bose, Sir C.V. Raman, etc., There are institutions in India like CSIR and CECRI which are as good as any foreign research centre. All that is required is perseverance, diligence and right aptitude. Let us remember that great scientists like Edison and Newton did not have sophisticated labs and yet became the greatest scientists of all times!

- V. Mahadevan, Std VII, P.S.Sr.Sec.School, Chennai

Scientists like Sir C.V. Raman have clearly defied the myth that one has to work abroad to become a Nobel Laureate.IISC, Bangalore and IITs have 'state - of - the - art' scientific laboratories, which are on par with the best in the western world. Indian scientists probably leave the country only to earn more.

- Madhuri, Etasi Timpany Steel City School, Vishakapatnam.



'Nationality' should not come in the way of education and research. People from abroad come to India for medical treatment. Similary research facilities should be shared by scientists all over the world. Many great scientists like Birbal Sahni who developed paleobotany and set up an institute in Lucknow and Homi Bhabha who was a

pioneer in atomic energy in India educated themselves abroad. Whether a scientist is educated in London, Newyork or Bangalore, he will still be an Indian scientist!

- M. Sneha, Std VIII, St.Anne's girls High School, Bangalore

Man power and brain power is available in plenty in India but by going abroad we have access to advanced technology. We must take

a pledge that we will serve our motherland after overseas training. Earlier we were importing foodgrains but thanks to the Green Revolution introduced by M.S. Swaminathan we have now started exporting the same. In the field of I.T., Indians are topping in the U.S. Bill Gates was asked, "What will happen to your industry if the U.S. Government decides to send all Indians back?" He replied. "we'll shift our operations to India."

- V. Srividhya, Std VII, St.Anne's Mat. Hr.Sec.School, Kumbakonam.

By developing infrastructure in the fields of science and technology, we can produce great scientists. Talent should be identified at a young age and these children can go through 'fast-track' schools. Similarly, hi-tech labs can be set up for them and encouragement provided at each stage. This way brain drain can be avoided and Indian scientists need not go abroad.

- R. Navroj Vagulathri, Std VI, Arya Vidya Mandir, Mumbai

With the advancements in the IT fields, one can collect data or get advice from overseas experts. But when 'hands on' experience is required one has to go abroad. Hence to go or not to go depends on the branch of choice.

- Aswin Shyam, Std IV, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Tripunithura

QUESTION FOR THE MONTH

The Board exams are round the corner. Students are under great stress. Should the Std X students be spared the agony of Board Exams?

Send us your views by 10.02.05. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs.25/- Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non-residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too.

Abhinav Ramnarayan

Deserving VICTOR!

Even though Chennai wasn't buzzing with tennis fever when the ATP Tour came to town, the interest soared as last year's finalists, Srichapan and Carlos Moya, unbelievably, met again in the finals, and unbelievably, it was yet another thriller, which ended in a third set tiebreaker! Carlos Moya was the victor once again, winning 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (5). Last year, the heat sapped the energy of both players, until it became a battle of wills, more than skill. This year, both of them gave the audience an exhibition of vintage tennis. Only in the third set did Srichapan seem to tire, conceding a 5-2 lead. Moya on the other hand, has come back from impossible positions time and again, though even he admitted that this is the first time he has come back in such a big way in the deciding set of a final of a tournament. He deserved the title, and he deserves all the praise for donating his hard-earned prize money (US$52,000) to the Tsunami Relief Fund.

The last month or so have seen some important cricketing events take place. India's Test series against Bangladesh was predictably one-sided. The one-day series however, held one bright spot for the host team – their first ever One Day International victory at home. More importantly, Bangladesh had more positives, than the stats suggested. Another success was the first ever Test victory over a terribly depleted Zimbabwe side. The victory lap and the delirious crowds seem to suggest that Bangladesh is on its way to a spot on the international cricket map.

In South Africa, England extended their 'eight-in-a-row win' record in Test matches, a fabulous achievement form a team that has never looked above average for a decade or so. Their batting order looks pretty well balanced. They still have a long way to go to make a challenge for the Ashes, but they might just oust India from their self-professed "Second Best" spot!

DETERMINATION

Oh, come, come. Tell me what you want.
Let's make pancakes.
Is that all? Okay.
Next day-
Here's some flour. Now make the pancakes.
Soon...
The pancakes are ready.
Ah!
What? Only one for me?
I want two.
No way. I'm the one who brought the flour.
But I'm the one who made the pancakes.

I have an idea. Let's not eat the pancakes now.
Then?
Let's go to sleep. Whoever wakes up last, gets two pancakes.
Fine!
Both of them went to sleep.
I won't wake up first.
I'll get the two pan-cakes.
After three days, the neighbours wondered...
What happened to the old couple?
Are they ill...?
Let's find out...

They peeped in...

Oh! They are lying still.

Inform the royal guards.

The guards broke in...

Alas! They are dead!

JINGLE BELL CREATIONS

The guards set up a pyre, placed the couple on it and set fire to it. Suddenly -

I've won!

No! I won!

Eh?!

The guards enquired with the couple and informed the king.

What? Ha... ha... ha! Produce the funny couple in my court.

The guards fetched the couple...

Your majesty, why did you summon us?

You may stay in the palace and eat your favourite dishes for the rest of your life!

SUBRAN

Thus the old couple lived happily ever after.

FORGING BONDS

Name : **Riddhi Shah**
Age : 13
Address : A/903, Samprat Tower, (near Shradha Petrol Pump), Boadekater Road, Ahmedabad - 380 054.
Hobbies : Reading, making friends, chatting.

Name : **K. Vinoth**
Age : 15
Address : 4/600, Bharatiyar Nagar, Neelangarai, Chennai - 600 041
Hobbies : Playing cricket, kabaddi, Video games and computer games, making penfriends, reading Gokulam.

Name : **Ankita Isor**
Age : 10
Address : NB-2-11, ONGC Colony, Panvel, Maharashtra
Hobbies : Reading, dancing, singing, cycling, playing outdoor games, stamp and coin collection.

Name : **M. Harshitha**
Age : 10
Address : 'Suguna Nilaya' House, Beeranthabail, Kasargod - 671 121. Kerala.
Hobbies : Playing, singing, cleaning the house, writing letters, reading Gokulam and listening to stories and music.

Name : **M. Sushma**
Age : 12
Address : "Mathura", Karnad Bypass Mangalore Post, Mulky - 574 154, Karnataka.
Hobbies : Reading books, writing poetry, swimming, dancing and watching T.V.

Name : **K. Abinav**
Age : 12
Address : Flat No. G-3, Alliance House (Near Natraj Theatre) S.D.Road, Secunderabad -3
Hobbies : Playing cricket, tennis, reading Gokulam, cycling, watching films and reading books.

Name : **Utthra Ramachandran**
Age : 14

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Dear Readers,

* You are most welcome to send in your contributions to **Gokulam** either by post or by e-mail.

Remember every contribution sent by you should give details of your **- Name, Age, Class, Name and address of school, Residential address and a declaration stating that the contribution is your original creation (if not, the source must be mentioned).**

However, we cannot guarantee that your contribution will be published. It is also not possible for us to tell you when it will be published. But, if you require your contribution to be sent back to you on rejection, then you must enclose a self addressed, stamped envelope.

- Editor

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE

You will receive a **participation certificate** from us if your contribution is published. At the end of the one year period ending June 2005, the person with most number of participation certificates will receive a special prize.

Address : Flat 455, Block 29, BPCL Colony, Azizbaug, Chembur, Mumbai - 400 074.

Hobbies : Reading, dancing, singing and playing the piano.

Name : **V. Samyuktha**

Age : 13

Address : 34D, Ramalinga Jothi Nagar, 5th Street Extension, Ramanathapuram, Coimbatore - 641 045

Hobbies : Playing guitar, reading books, playing chess, making friends, drawing.

Name:**Shaad H. Mehdi**

Age : 13

Address : Plot No.33, Daspalla Hills, D.No.11-8-35, Vizag - 530 003

Hobbies : Reading, playing shuttle badminton, chatting, making friends.

Name : **S.Ahalya**

Age : 13

Address : 7-3-24 E/2, Main Raod, Pattiveeran patti, Dindigul Dt.,Tamil Nadu.

Hobbies : Playing veena, reading books, singing and listening to music.

BANGALORE Special

It was only 5'O clock in the evening. 'Mamma won't be back for several hours yet', ten year old Reena sighed. Her mother, Meera, worked at IT Park in the outskirts of Bangalore city and often came home late. Her father, Raj was working in the U.S. How she wished she had a companion - someone to play with. Like today, every evening, she felt bored but she knew there was no hope for a playmate.

One day, during English period, the school building suddenly ex-

DREAMS COME TRUE!

perienced tremors. Everybody started running. "Earthquake!" "Quake!", "Run, run." Children and adults were screaming.

Reena noticed a small girl, being pushed around. She had briefly noticed the shy girl several times. She was being trampled, as she ran towards the open ground. Reena rushed to her aid, rescued her and dragged her to safety.

Reena took her home with her, dressed her wounds gave her something to eat and then slowly asked her who she was.

"My name is Rani. I'm an orphan", replied the little girl haltingly. Rani was overwhelmed by the stranger who was taking such good care of her.

Rani told Reena about the dreadful plane crash that had claimed the life of her parents. She thanked Reena for her kindness and told her how she longed to be a part of a family once again.

Reena's mother rushed back home to make sure Reena had got back home safely. Reena was not sure how her mother would react to Rani's presence in their house. But she told her Rani's story. Meera, who noticed the two girls getting along so well came to a decision. She said Rani could stay with them and also go to school with Reena. She would see how they could quickly legally adopt Rani and then Reena would have a sister and Rani would have a home. Both girls were thrilled that their dreams had come true!

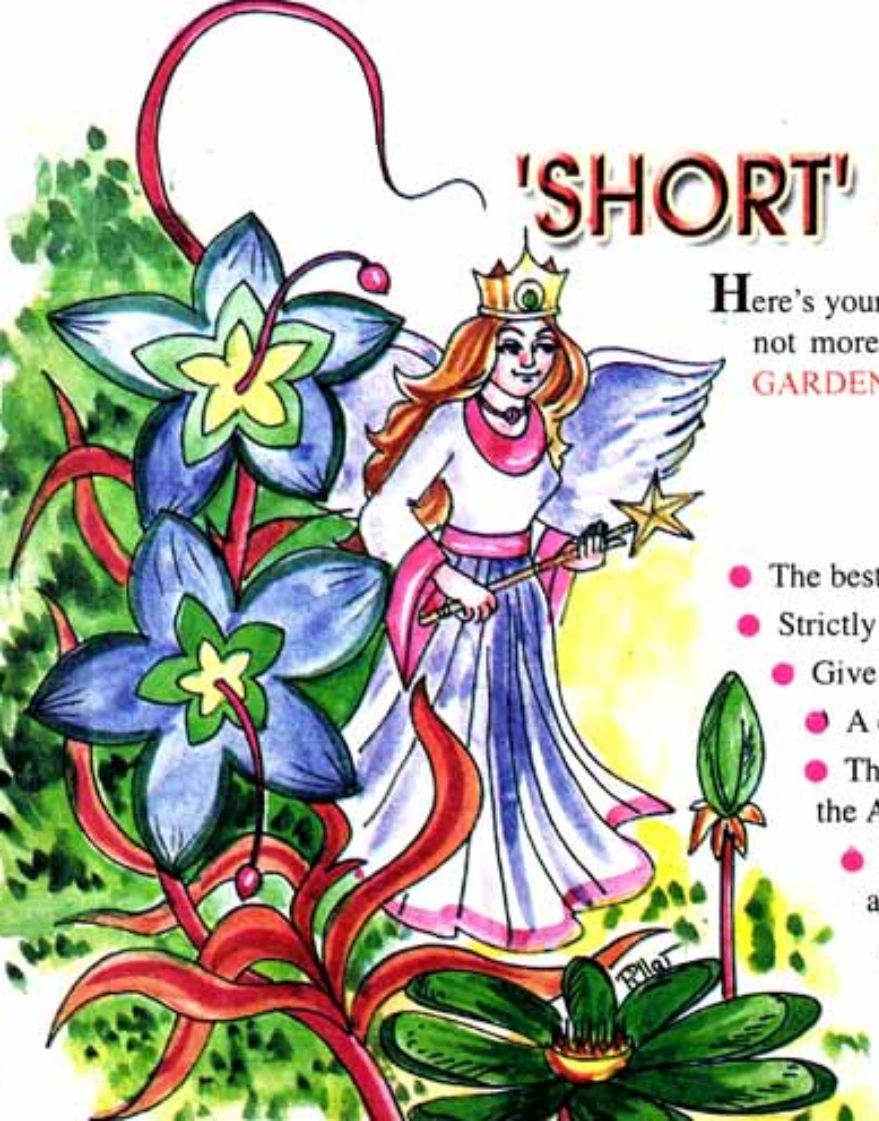
- Vyjayanthi. P.
Std VIII,
Poornaprajna Education Centre,
Bangalore

(Film) Director: You have to act as an 'auctioneer' Remember your lines?

Actor: Sure, sir.

Director : Good. 'Start, Auction'!

-Yamuna Ranganathan, Bangalore



A REALLY 'SHORT' STORY CONTEST-8

Here's your chance to literally spin a fairytale! Write an original story in not more than 350 words about a 'FAIRY' and an 'ENCHANTED GARDEN'. **Last Date : 24.2.2005**

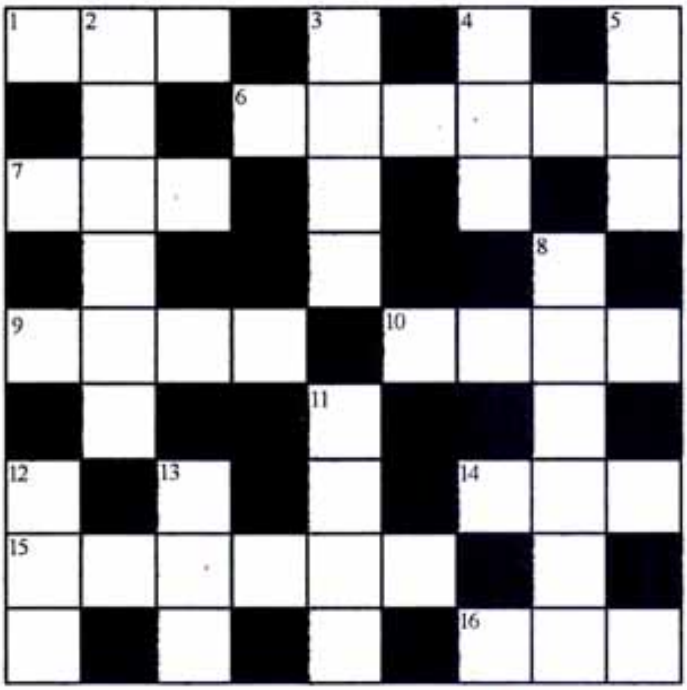
Send in your entries to :

Gokulam, 47-N.P., Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

- The best entry will receive a prize of Rs.100/-.
- Strictly for school going children.
- Give your name, school and residential address.
- A declaration that the story is your original creation.
- The prize winning story will appear in the April 2005 issue of Gokulam.
- Next short story contest announcement March 2005.
- Mention 'short story contest' on the envelope.
- Editor's decision is final.

WIN Rs. 100/-

I. *The Indian Institute of Science and Raman Research Institute are located at Bangalore. On the occasion of National Science Day (Feb.28th, Dr.C.V.Raman's birthday) find out if you are a budding scientist!*



CROSSWORD

KNOW YOUR BANGALORE!

CLUES:

ACROSS:

1. H^+ is an example of an_____.(3)
6. Saturated hydrocarbon with ten carbon atoms(6)
7. Symbols of hydrogen, carbon and oxygen (3)
9. Part of plant above soil. (4)
10. Average(4)
14. Kind of gymnosperm; Christmas tree (3)
15. Nitrogenous base unique to RNA (6)
16. Abbreviation for unit of current (3)

DOWN:

2. Term given to egg cell of animals (6)
3. Major element wrongly associated with pencils. (4)
4. Vital contents of cells with vacuole (3)
5. Abbreviation of light emitting diodes (3)
8. _____ gives an apple green flame when tested(6)

11. Birds eat ___ to help in digestion (4)
12. Minks are hunted for their ___ (3)
13. This organ has the smallest bone in the body (3)

- S.Ramkumar, Std.XII, Bishop Cotton Boys' School,Bangalore.

II. PUZZLE TOWN

1. The fragrant wood of Bangalore (6)
2. The famous flower of the city (4)
3. Previously known as Garden city, now known as ___ city (2)
4. People living here should not throw stones; Found in Lalbagh and Cubbon park (10)
5. The famous KRS dam across Cauvery is the brain - child of this renowned engineer. (14)
6. Indian satellites are made here (4)
7. India's highest wicket taker who belongs to the city (6)
8. The Assembly functions from this landmark building (7+6)
9. Eco- friendly car manufactured in the city (4)
10. Violin memorial to a musician (9)
11. The city's goddess (rice + mother) (7)
12. Hills near by named after Shiva's Vahana (5)
13. Temple of Lord Krishna atop a hill (6)
14. Mythological flying machine on the road! (7)
15. 'The wall' of Indian cricket (6)

- Meghashyam V. Rao, Class V, Little Lilly's English School, Bangalore

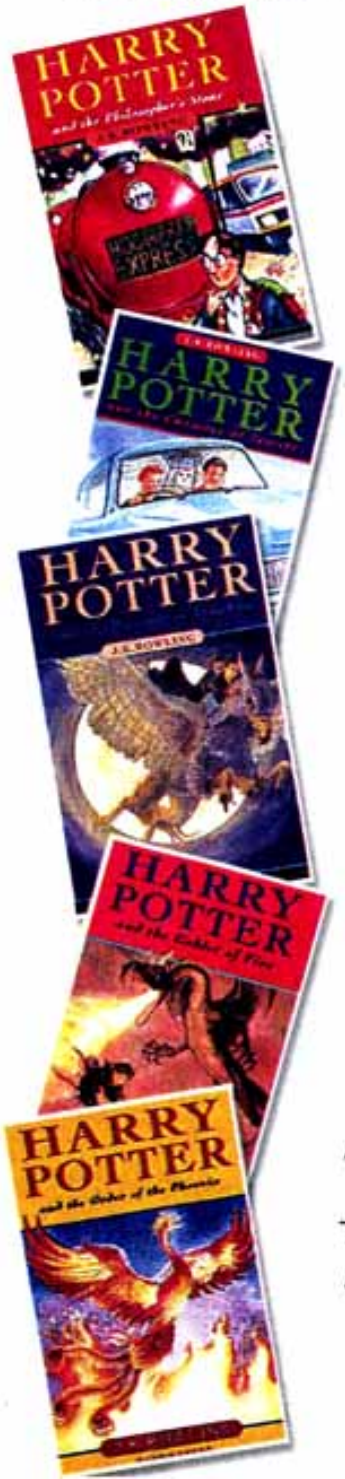
III. *Adjectives describe nouns. How many more adjectives can you think of, which aptly describe BANGALORE?*

B - beautiful
A - amazing
N - natural
G - great
A - amiable
L - lovely
O - original
R - radiant
E - educative

- Surya, Std-III, Sindhi High School, Bangalore

SOLUTIONS ON PAGE - 34

Great news for Potter fans! The sixth book, The Half Blood Prince', is going to hit the bookstores on July 16, 2005. The book has already become the No.1 best seller on Amazon. Com, with over a million advance bookings! Let's hope the two year wait is worth it! Here is a poem which is a quick recap of the Potter series!



REMEMBER POTTER?

Remember Rowling's Harry Potter?
There's certainly nothing better!

The first book is about Harry's birth
In an uncommon part of the earth.
Then the saving of philosopher's stone
With Dumbledore's assuring tone.

The second book starts with a Journey to the Burrow
And meeting with Malfoy, the evil fellow.
But Harry took the risk,
And killed the Basilisk.

The next book is about an escaped prisoner
Who turns out to be Harry's god - father.
So he saves him from the dementors.
The evil, ugly Azkaban creatures.

The fourth book is about the Triwizard Cup.
With three tasks to gulp.
It ends with "You - Know - Who's" rise
And Cedric Diggory's demise.

The next book begins, with the meeting of the Order
And Dudley being 'demented' by a dementor.
Harry sees many a dream
And Sirius, death makes him scream.

POTTER RECAP!

The Half Blood Prince is the sixth book
Which'll be available in e'ry nook!
But fans you'll have to wait for the book
So keep your eyes open and look.

- Karthik. P.
Std X, SSSLSVK, ALIKE, Karnataka

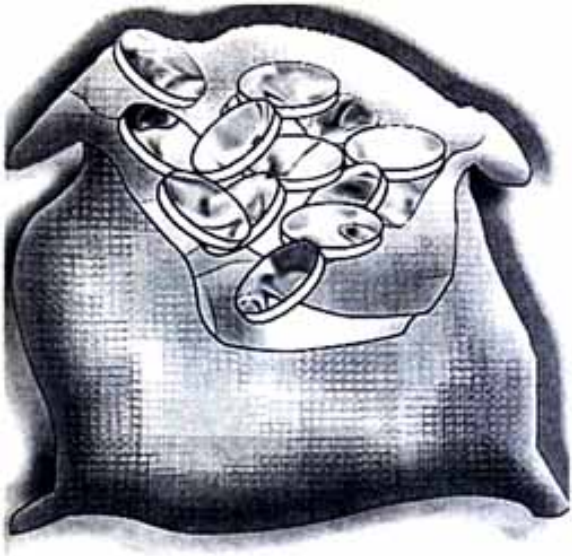
"THE SORTING CEREMONY"

All those who want to be in Hogwarts must be sorted first. So, answer the questions below, 'sort' yourself! GOOD LUCK!

1. **Which spell would you like to cast upon yourself?**
   a. Ability to fly
   b. Super strength
   c. Invisibility
   d. Transfiguration

2. Which flavour of **Bertie Bott's Every Flavour Beans**, would you prefer?
   a. Grass
   b. Sprouts
   c. Coffee
   d. Marmalade

3. If you find a **bag of galleons** on the road and no one near it, would you -
   a. Keep it for yourself and not tell anyone about it? (Hey! After all, finders keepers, losers weepers!)
   b. Take it and buy a birthday present for a special person?
   c. Donate it to charity?



d. Find the person who lost it and give it back to him?

4. Which **animal** would you choose for a **Hogwarts pet?**

a. Rat
b. Frog
c. Cat
d. Owl

5. If you were on the **Quidditch** team, what position would you play?

a. Beater
b. Keeper
c. Chaser
d. Seeker

RATE YOURSELF!

POINTS

a- 1 point
b - 2 points
c - 3 points
d - 4 points

YOU HAVE BEEN SORTED INTO:-

5 - 8 points : - Congratulations! You fit into **"SLYTHERIN."** Here you will find only pure - blood witches and wizards of great ambitions. These cunning folk use any means to acheive what they want.

9 - 12 points:- Congratulations! You are a **"HUFFLEPUFF".** Hufflepuffs are just and loyal. They are patient and not afraid of hard work. They are kind and gentle. Nature sets them apart.

13-16 points:- Congratulations! You have been sorted into the **"RAVENCLAW"** group.

Those who are intelligent and witty will always find their kind here.

17-20 points:- Congratulations! You have been sorted into **"GRYFFINDOR."** Here dwell those with brave deeds to their names. Their daring, nerve and chivalry sets Gryffindors apart

- Mithila Ananth,
Std XII,
VCPUC, Bangalore

GOKULAM

The magazine for children

IS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION DUE FOR RENEWAL?

Subscribe now!

FREE

WITH EVERY TWO / THREE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION

Name : .....

Address : .....

: .....

..... Pin : .....

Period : ☐ 1 year Rs.96/- ☐ 2 years** Rs.192/- ☐ 3 years** Rs.288/-

Amount enclosed : Rs. ☐ (DD / MO / Cheque* favouring 'Gokulam')

* ADD Rs. 20/- for Outstation cheques

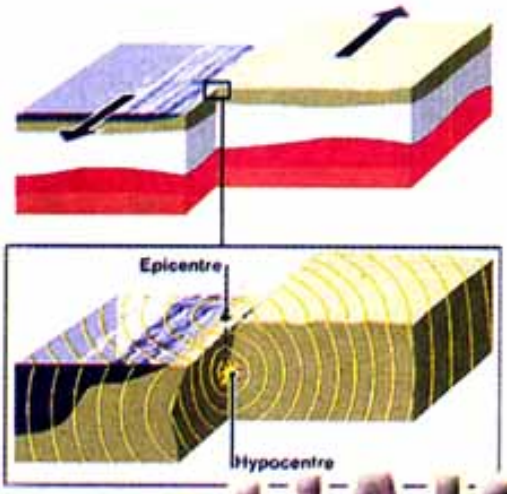
**** FREE!**

Book worth Rs.39.50
'Fat is Beautiful and other Jayabalan Stories' with a two / three year subscription
**until stocks last

The Circulation Manager
Gokulam
'Kalki Buildings',
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, CHENNAI - 600 032.
E-mail : subscription@kalkiweekly.com

QUAKES &

"I'm not going to watch TV," said Raja. He was upset by the sad scenes after the tsunami. His mother had decided to spare two hours to help distribute food packets in the relief camp. His father, with many people from his office, had already left for Nagapattinam, to help fishermen rebuild boats and nets. Raja asked lots of questions that day and Viz, his silicon dust friend, replied patiently.



Why do these things happen?

We think we know all about nature and that we have everything under control. But sometimes we just do not know. Like the Earthquake in the Indian Ocean on 26th December 2004.

Why did the earthquake take place?

If you knew a bit more about the earth you would be surprised that we do not have such violent activity more often. The centre of the earth is made of hot iron and is covered with molten rock on which rests a cool crust. Land and water, as we know, are on this thin crust. This crust is itself made of "plates" or separate parts that lie close together. As these plates are above molten rock they are also gently moving at about 10 cms per year. But sometimes the plates move against each other forcefully.

The plate under the Indian ocean banged against another, right under Sumatra. This caused the biggest earthquake in 40 years!

Do all undersea earthquakes create tsunamis?

Well, no! There have been some earthquakes near the Andamans in the past, but these have not set off tsunamis.

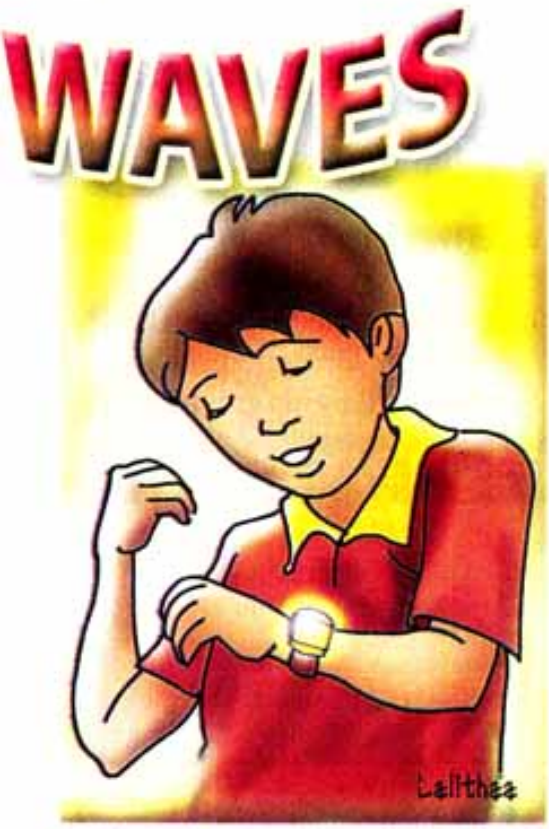
Exactly. So why such big waves this time?

The edge of the plate that jolted is about 1000 kms. long and the sea floor got pushed up by about 10 meters. And that displaced vast

volumes of water. This water rushed out in all directions, at speeds nearing a few hundred kilometres an hour. When it approached the shore, the speed came down a bit but the waves rose in height. And, they were really powerful.

Some people said that they saw the waves going back a bit. Why was that?

Raja, you know the shape of a wave. It rises high and then it goes down. In a tsunami, the lower part hits the beach first. This, kind of, draws in the water. That is why some people even saw fish left behind on the shore as the water receded. But they should have known that in the next 5-20 minutes the higher part or the crest of the wave is going to hit the shore.



Why weren't we warned? Will someone warn us in future?

There are Earthquake monitoring systems and Tsunami Warning Systems in the Pacific ocean, as these waves are more common there. It is not simple to set up these systems. Apart from earthquake sensors, there should be sensors placed at the sea surface level to sense if the quake is disturbing the waves. This data is relayed to the warning centres, where all the data is put together and analysed. When they are sure that there will be a big wave, the governments are informed and they tell the people to rush to safety. But this requires a lot of work and sometimes even false alarms are given.

Will we have tsunamis frequently now?

Usually disasters of this scale are rare. And the Indian Ocean is not a tsunami prone zone. But it is better to be forewarned. The Asian governments are now talking of putting together warning systems in the oceans close to them.

'That's some consolation', thought Raja.

WEB-BASED

Instructional Designing: An Expanding Field in an Information Age

Instructional Designing - An Overview

As career options, both **technical writing** (more on this in the previous issue of ***Gokulam***) and **instructional design** (ID) are very recent and upcoming areas. Effectively, ID is a step ahead of technical writing and needs experience besides the domain knowledge (in layman terms, expertise in a particular area) and command on written expression. Courseware development for print (books or print material that you may find on specific topics) has existed for long but with learning going the Web way, instances of technology-based teaching (TBT)-CBT (computer-based teaching/training/tutorials) and WBT (Web-based teaching/training/tutorials) have increased. With focus more on e-learning (electronic learning), the number of specialized people needed for Web-based course development is also *bound* to increase.

An instructional designer, pretty much like an architect, creates a model of [illegible] program as per the needs of the client or customer. (S)he strategizes, conceptualizes, and designs courses. Instructional designers need to know every detail of the skill or procedure to develop content-exactly how a new payroll system works or exactly what a new position on the factory floor entails. When creating training material, they need to develop interactive computer programs and PowerPoint presentations, teach classes, and develop group activities

SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLES ON PAGES 26 & 27

CROSSWORD:

ACROSS: 1.Ion, 6.Decane, 7.HCO, 9.stem 10.mean 14. fir 15.uracil 16 Amp

DOWN: 2.oocyte, 3.Lead, 4.sap, 5.led, 8.Barium, 11.grit, 12.fur, 13.ear

PUZZLE: 1. Sandal 2. Rose 3. I.T. 4. Glasshouse 5. Vishveswaraiah 6. ISRO 7. Kumble 8. Vidhana Soudha 9. Reva 10. Chowdaiah 11. Annamma 12. Nandi 13. ISKCON 14. Pushpak 15. Dravid

that help employees learn the skills necessary for them to perform well in their jobs—through a coalition of

TRAINING

electronic training materials that use sound, pictures and photos, animation, and text. They need to know which training methods work best for different kinds of people-from high-level government employees to production workers, from computer support technicians to corporate executives.

Where Would You Work?

Instructional designers are employed in the private sector, the military, health and human services, and education, usually in training or HRD. Some do freelancing or work for consulting companies.

Job Outlook and Credentials for being an Instructional Designer:

In the past few years, there has been a shift from regular classroom instruction to e-learning. Courses in ID are offered in many colleges as well as universities overseas. In India, however, persons qualified in English Literature or Mass Communication (with work experience in an editorial, creative or journalistic writing background) take up ID as a profession. Unfortunately, there is no university or institute in India offering a specialized course in instructional designing.

With a growth in the outsourcing of instructional designing works, there are already about 5,000 instructional designers in India. As more outsourcing jobs pour in, there would be a demand for thousands of instructional designers in the country. A good instructional designer can earn Rs.1.8 lakh p.a. at the low-end, and with experience upto Rs.12 lakh p.a.

Sounds lucrative? Then go for it and all the very best!

NEXT MONTH:

Photography

Feedback to:

gokulam@careersindia.com

SERIAL CHAPTER - 2

Story so far:

Rinu, Manik and their parents, Mrs. & Mr. Ramesh, have gone to the Nilgiris for a holiday. Like all siblings, Rinu and Manik are constantly at loggerheads. On reaching Ootacamund they go sightseeing. The kids stray off and spot a dilapidated building. Rinu, who immersed herself in detective books, wanted to investigate the building, while Manik who preferred science fiction, was not too keen.

Rinu dragged Manik towards the building. Just then they saw

V.RANJANA

THE SPY-KIDS

some men creeping out of the building, furtively looking back now and then.

Now read on:

The siblings hid behind a bush and watched. Rinu was excited. She desperately wanted to explore the building.

Manik wasn't keen.

"Those men might not have anything to do with the building at all. Moreover, the building is so old, what if the roof suddenly caves in and we are trapped inside?" Manik was cautious.

"Shut up, stupid. Either follow me or stay here. I'm going in", said Rinu irritated.

"What about mum and dad? They'll be looking for us and may be terribly worried even now," reminded Manik.

"Oh yeah! I forgot. Okay, let's go back..." said Rinu and Manik heaved a sigh of relief.

"But we'll come back this evening. Anyway this place is close to our hotel," continued

Rinu, blissfully unaware of Manik's terrified expression.

"Um... Okay... but..." Manik knew there was no use arguing with her. "What do you think? Detective Rinu is going to nab some big gang which is planning to loot a bank?" He added, "I'm sure there's nothing to this whole business!"

"Thanks a ton for your encouragement!" Rinu snapped . They got back to the park.

"Where were you?" Dad enquired.

"Oh, just looking around. Shall we go?" Rinu said casually.

After lunch and an afternoon siesta, Rinu asked her mother if she and Manik could go out and play in the park.

"Sure. But only for an hour" said her mother.

Rinu and Manik crossed the park and reached the building. The door knob creaked as they entered. The sight of cobwebs hanging around the rusty old building gave Manik the creeps.

"Strange isn't it, this place is so warm, it's so cold outside. Do I smell a fire inside somewhere?" Rinu sniffed the air, as she entered one of the rooms.

Sure enough there was a fire, lit in the fireplace. "Who would bother to light a fire here?" Rinu wondered.

"Certainly not petty thieves. Let's go", said Manik.

"Yeah! But some big gang might be using the place. See... even the staircase is not dusty. I'm sure there is something going on here", deduced Rinu. "Let's go up quietly!"

The staircase creaked under their feet as they went up to the first floor.

"Good. There's nobody here. You search that room to the right, while

I go into this one", Rinu pointed to the left.

Rinu's room smelled of cigarettes. But there was no sign of any butt or food. She tapped the walls and the floorboards to check for some hollow.

Meanwhile, Manik went tapping along the walls too. His room looked worse. He was frustrated and leaned against a shelf. Lo and behold! It swung open. His eyes popped out of his head as he saw a long passage going on for what looked like miles. He hesitated for a few seconds before going in and pulled the shelf back, slightly closed.

He walked and walked until he realised that the tunnel was closing in and becoming narrower. He was exhausted and sat down with a thump. His hands accidentally touched a piece of paper. Trembling with excitement, he picked it up.

It was neatly folded. Obviously somebody had dropped it. 'But here in this tunnel... how?' Manik wondered. 'A hidden tunnel, a piece of paper...' He pocketed the paper and set off to see if there was any other paper or clue.

In the eerie silence, he jumped as his watch beeped. (He had set the alarm for an hour).

'We better go back', thought Manik as he hurried back to the opening of the tunnel. He made sure the paper was in his pocket. He cautiously stepped into the room where Rinu had entered. She was nowhere to be seen.

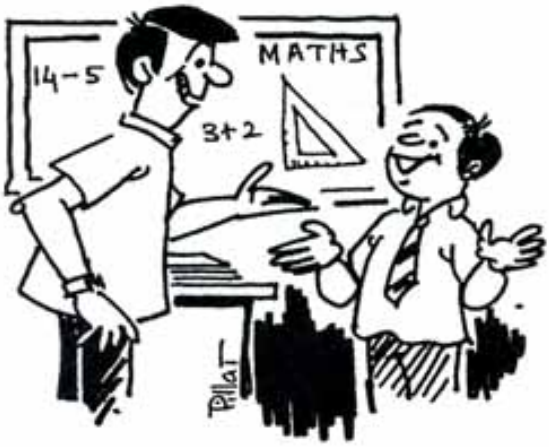
'Had she found a tunnel too? But why the hell did she close it?' Manik searched frantically. "Rinu! Hey Rinu! It's past six. Where are you?" 'Stupid girl' he thought angrily, when he heard a sound. He stopped abruptly in his tracks and listened. Yes, a muffled cry. It came from the...

To be continued...

Teacher : Ravi, define 'right angle.'

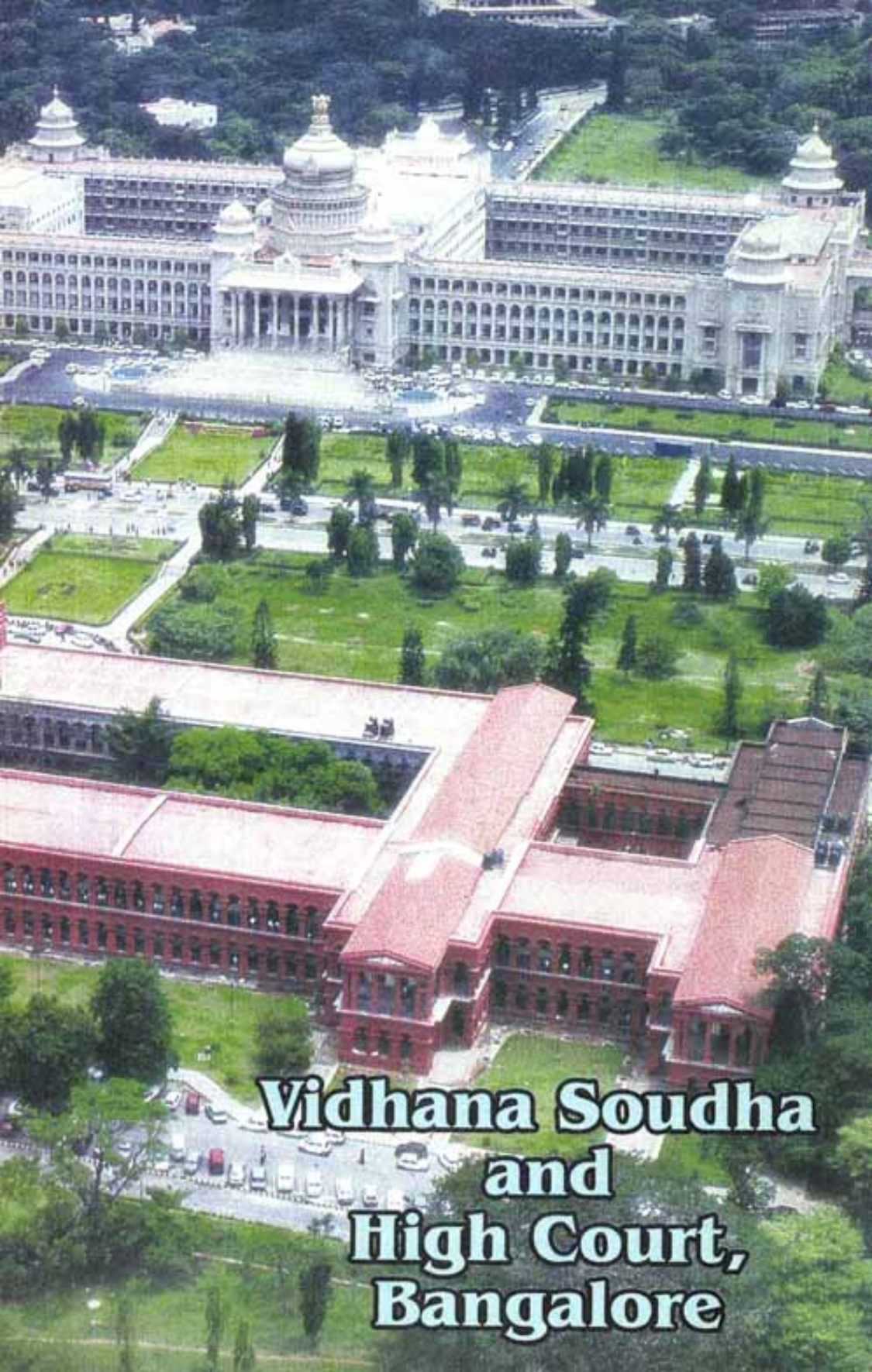
Ravi: Right angle is the angle that never goes wrong.

- Binita Biswas, Std X, Kalyan (W)



GOKULAM poster

courtesy Karnataka Tourism.


Vidhana Soudha
and
High Court,
Bangalore

Dear Children,

I am glad that so many of you are interested in conversational English. I will get on with answering your queries rightaway.

How do you pronounce the word "the"?

- Shivani Deshpande, Korba

The word "the" is pronounced either as "thuh" or "thee". The word "the "should be pronounced "thuh" before a word which begins with a consonant and "thee" before a word beginning with a vowel.

WORD

Thuh table, thee armchair
Thuh chair, thee egg
Thuh pencil, thee apartment
Thuh zoo, thee east

However, it is not incorrect to say "thuh" for "thee" all the time.

Who is a fairy? Are there male fairies?

- Tanya Das, Silchar, Assam

Fairies are supernatural beings. They are supposed to have power to do good or evil to humans. The male equivalent would perhaps be elves. Elves are short and like fairies have magical powers to do good or evil.

We use the word "yep" and "nope" in conversation. Is it O.K. to use these words?

- K.Kartik, Bangalore

It is "O.K." to use the words. OK itself is a slang word but is so commonly used that one hardly realizes that it is a slang word.

Slang words are not used in formal English. They are used only in conversational English and may relate to a particular time or place. Slang words used today may not be in use after a decade or two. Today "cool" is a slang word meaning good. "Awesome" means wonderful and the latest is "rocks" which means superb.

Because the sound "s" is not easy to pronounce, "yes" must have been changed into "yep", the 'p' being easier to pronounce. If one says "yep" for yes, perhaps one would also say "nope" for no.

In England we have other forms of yes. They are "aye", "yeh", "uh-huh". And for no we have "nare", "ner", and "nah". In the U.S it is "yeah" for yes and "nope" for no.

Is there any word in the English language containing all the letters

of the alphabet?

Khurshid Ahmed Khwaja, Sopore, Jammu and Kashmir

I really do not know and anyway it is perhaps useless knowledge even if there were one. However, there is a sentence in which all the consonants and vowels of the alphabet are used, usually to learn typing— The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Here's a game testing useless knowledge but which may improve your memory and your vocabulary. The idea is to form words with double

PLAY!

consonants or vowels. A player chooses a consonant and asks another player to form a word. If he gets it right, he gets a point. He in turn is asked to form a word with either a double consonant or double vowel. The player should answer in about two seconds; otherwise he looses his turn. This gives rise to a lot of fun when played in a group.

Here is a list of words to give you an idea of the game:

aa Aardvark

bb Abbess, abbreviate

cc Accept, vaccine

dd Addition, address

ee Deep, freeze

ff Effect, staff

gg Egg, oggle.

hh, ii, jj, kk, are consonants that I have not found words for.

ll Will, yell

mm Mamma, grammar

nn Anniversary, tennis

oo Moon, balloon

pp Happy, appear

qq Is never doubled as u always follows q as in equal,

rr Terrain, horrible

ss Assistant, amiss

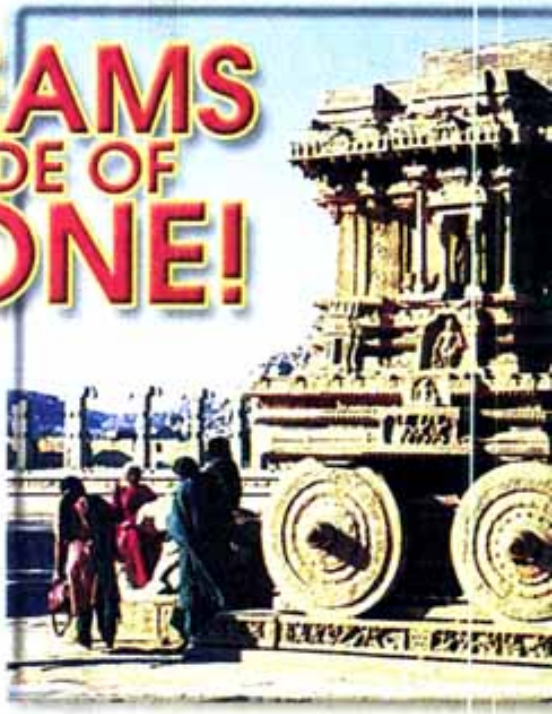
tt Bitter, litter

uu Vacuum

v v , ww, xx,yy are consonants that I have not found words for.

zz Buzzard

DREAMS MADE OF STONE!



"If dreams were made out of stone, it would be Hampi!"

All of us have read stories about Tenali Rama the jester at Krishna - devaraya's court. Well, Krishna-devaraya was the Emperor of Vijaya-nagara, the largest empire in post-Mogul India and Hampi was its capital.

Although in ruins today, Hampi still boasts of glory and beauty and is a World Heritage Centre. Located about 350 kms. from Bangalore, the ruins of Hampi (14th century) lie scattered over 26sq.kms. Protected by River Tungabhadra in the north and rocky granite ridges on three sides, Hampi narrates the story of grandeur, splendour and wealth of the empire.

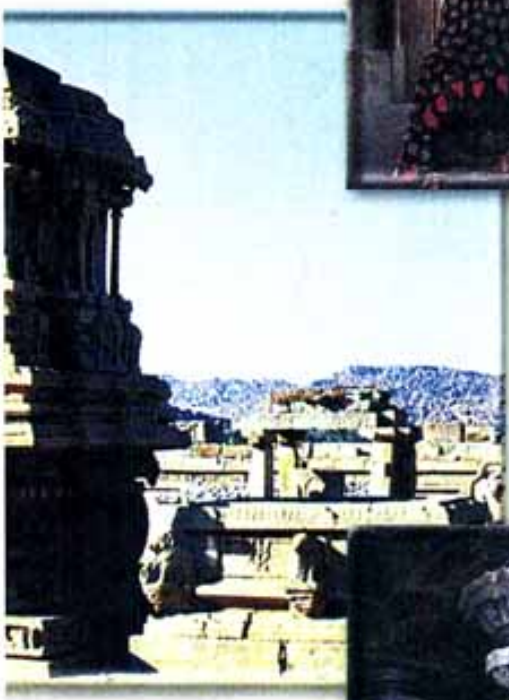
The Malyavanta Raghunatha-swamy temple has been built in the Dravidian style with fishes and marine monster carvings on the outer walls. The Virupaksha temple is famous for its 120ft. tall tower at its eastern gate. The temple dates back to the 11th or 12th century and is older than the kingdom itself. The 6.7m tall monolith of Ugra Narasimha, nearby, was hewn from a single rock in 1528 A.D.

The most splendid monument is the Vithala Temple Complex with its 56 musical pillars. To the east is the famous Stone Chariot with stone wheels that actually rotate! The richly sculpted basement is supported by 15ft. high pillars, each with a central pillar surrounded by detached shafts all carved out of one stone! The Purandaradasara mantapa nearby is a protected monument. The Hazara Ramaswamy temple west of the 'House of Victory" was the private temple of the royal family. Scenes from the Ramayana are carved on the walls of the mantapa. It is believed that this was the site where the monkey kingdom of Kishkinda existed in the days of the Ramayana.

The House of Victory, King's Balance, Queen's Bath, Lotus Mahal, Mahanavami Dibba, Mustard Ganesh etc are sites worth a visit. The Vijaynagar Festival (during

December) is a grand attraction for tourists.

Closer to Bangalore are the Hoysala temples of Belur and Halebid. ("Hale beedu" literally means the ruined city) Halebid, capital of the Hoysalas, was famous for its magnificent Shiva temple, Hoysaleshwara, with its unique shrines of a Linga and a Nandi. The two temples are attached along the north-south axis by pillared walls. This temple is twice the size of Belur's Chennakeswara temple, another masterpiece. Stories from the Puranas, Upanishads, Ramayana and Mahabharata have been executed in the most exquisite and authentic detail. It takes at least two hours to do a round of the temple! Pre dawn and sunrise views of the temple are sheer poetry!



The Hoysalas shifted their capital to Belur after repeated attacks by invaders. Situated 222Kms. from Bangalore and 27 Kms. from Halebid, Belur is saturated with temples, so much so that succeeding dynasties could not build anymore! Temples of Belur and Halebid are said to be the cream of the Hoysala dynasty and perhaps the most photographed.

OPTIMISM AT ITS BEST!

President, Dr. Kalam inaugurated a polytechnic in our school recently. Other VIPs including the Karnataka Governor and Chief Minister were present on the occasion.

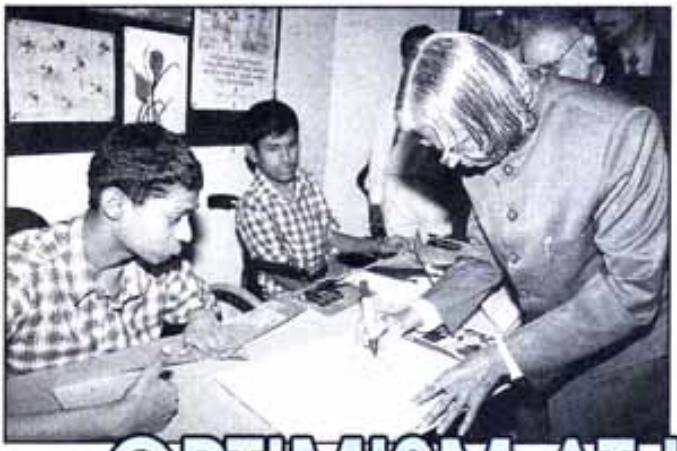
This polytechnic in our school, Spastic Society of Karnataka, will help us a lot to secure good jobs. Dr. Kalam mentioned that although the disabled constitute 5% of the population of our country, less than 20% of them have access to schools and rehabilitation centres. The rest of them suffer throughout their lives and are not gainfully employed probably because they are in rural areas. "Someone needs to go there and teach them and that someone could be you", he exhorted us.

He wanted 'call centres' to employ the visually impaired and called upon the IT community to design a Braille Keyboard.

The President read out a poem which he had recited to thousands of children who had participated in the Abilympics and called on him at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

We are all God's children,
Our minds are stronger than diamond!
We will win, win, win
with our mighty will!
God is with us, who can be against?!

On hearing this, a boy (he didn't have both legs) moved up to him and thrust a paper into Dr. Kalam's hands. In it was written a Persian poem titled 'courage'.



"I don't have legs. My mind says, 'Don't weep, don't weep' for I need not bow even in front of a king!"

President Kalam, like everyone else was overwhelmed by the boy's optimism!

- K. Karthik,
Std VI, Spastic Society of Karnataka, Bangalore

HANDY POTS!

CERAMIC POT

Materials required:

- Chalk powder (french powder)
- Ceramic powder (white powder)
- Gum / Fevicol
- Gold - silver - copper paint (powder form)
- Pot
- Black oil paint.

Method:

1. Take two spoons of ceramic powder and one spoon of chalk powder. Add gum and knead.

2. Mash it nicely. Draw a design on the pot and model it with the mixture. Stick with fevicol.

3. After drying, first paint the pot black and then spray gold or silver powder on the pot. It will stick as the paint is wet. Now keep it for 2 -3 hours to dry. Decorate with flowers.

- Himanshi Sahu, Std VIII, K.V., NTPC, Korba,

PAINTED HANKY

Materials required:

- a piece of white cloth
- Lady's finger
- A leaf
- Paint bottles

Method:

Take a white piece of cloth. Take a leaf. Paint the leaf. Stick the painted leaf on the cloth. Take a lady's finger, and cut it. Take one of the pieces and paint it. Stick it on the cloth. Remove both the leaf and vegetable. Your artistic handkerchief is ready.

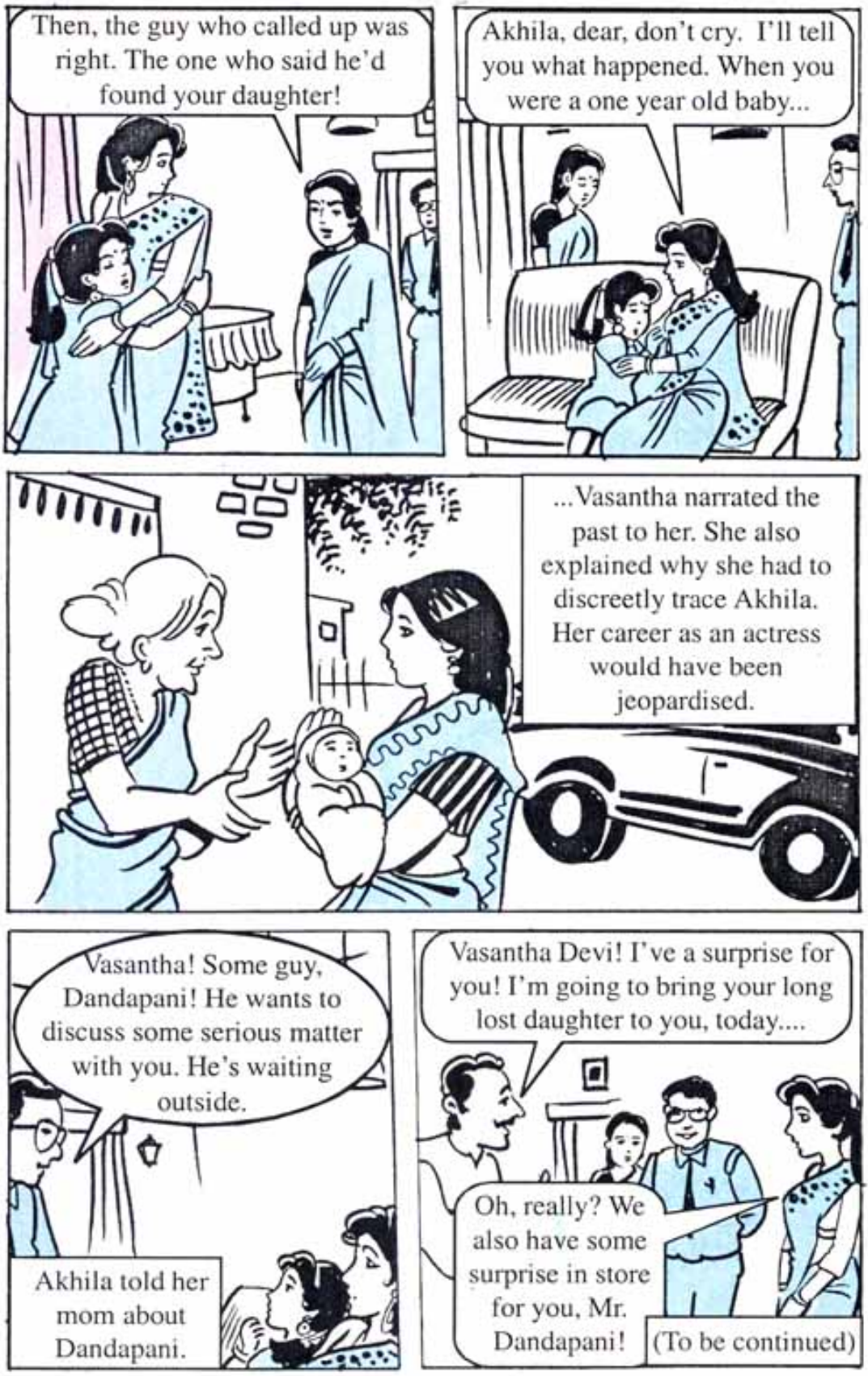
- G. Kamesh, Std VI, Sri Vani Education Centre, Bangalore

MOM, DEAR MOM! - 4

Story : **Vandu Mama**
Pic : **Mahesh**

Akhila was stunned.
That room boy said actress Vasantha was in the Green Suite. The luggage is being carried away. Probably she is not there!
In the hotel corridor, Akhila covered her face with her palms...
Over! All Over! I'd hoped to see my mother and now she's left!
A soft voice interrupted Akhila's whimpers.
I wanted to meet and talk to the famous film star, Vasantha, sir - but... but....
Little one! Why are you crying?
That's all? Go into this room. I know Vasantha is in this room.
Oh...?!
Miss... Vasantha... De...vi!

So pretty my mom is...
They both silently stared at each other for a few minutes.
Then...
Mom! Amma! Save me! I'm your daughter!
Vasantha! What happened? Who's this girl?
O Rajesh! Your wife will tell you.
Look at this girl's face! Look at my face too! Don't you understand?


Then, the guy who called up was right. The one who said he'd found your daughter!
Akhila, dear, don't cry. I'll tell you what happened. When you were a one year old baby...
...Vasantha narrated the past to her. She also explained why she had to discreetly trace Akhila. Her career as an actress would have been jeopardised.
Vasantha! Some guy, Dandapani! He wants to discuss some serious matter with you. He's waiting outside.
Akhila told her mom about Dandapani.
Vasantha Devi! I've a surprise for you! I'm going to bring your long lost daughter to you, today....
Oh, really? We also have some surprise in store for you, Mr. Dandapani!
(To be continued)

Many of you must have feasted on cakes during Christmas and New Year. How delicious, cakes are! How are these cakes made? Ten kids, (all Gokulam readers) from Erode visited the Milka Wonder Cake factory to find out.

Milka sent a big van to transport the team. After a fifteen minute ride from Erode, we reached Chinnasadayampalayam. The aroma of cakes wafted into the air and the kids sniffed appreciatively. "Um..lovely..!" Soon we were at the factory.

Milka's Managing Director, Mr. Raja, welcomed the kids to the factory.

"What are the ingredients used in cakes?" He quizzed.

"Maida, sugar..."

"Is that all?"

"Eggs too, uncle?"

"Yes. And vanaspati, vegetable fat."

We first entered the storeroom where sackfuls of maida (plain flour) and sugar were stored. There were tins of vanaspati too. The maida was sieved by machines. Baking soda had been added to it, so as to make the cakes spongy.

In the next room, eggs were

cracked and poured into large vessels. Eggs are not stored for long, but are freshly procured to meet the daily needs.

We then entered the processing room where refined sugar was being well mixed with the eggs in a large machine. In another machine, maida and vanaspati were being mixed.

The two mixtures were then

blended together. Permitted food colours and flavours were added and the dough was collected in huge vessels. This was poured into wooded aluminium trays lined with thick butter paper.

These trays are placed in ovens, preheated to 190°C and baked. Hundred minutes later, the cake is done and gives out a fragrance.

These cakes are left to cool for four hours. They are then placed in an airconditioned room. The moisture content is reduced to less than 20%.(Cakes that you buy from bakeries spoil easily because moisture content is about 25-30%)

From here the cakes are sent to the section where the edges are chopped off. They are then sliced and put into covers and sealed. The manufacturing date, best before date etc. are then stamped. These packets are then neatly stacked in big cardboard cartons.

From here the cakes are despatched to shops within two days. Milka cakes are sold in Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Andhra, Kerala and Maharashtra. If stored properly these cakes have a shelf life of sixty days.

• Photos: Sivakumar

12,000 cake slices are produced here each day. Six varieties, Vanilla, Pineapple, Orange, Chocolate, Fruit and Butter cake are produced here. During Christmas and New Year special plum cakes are also produced.

The kids were delighted to receive packs of Milka Wonder Cake. They thanked the M.D. profusely for the wonderful treat..

FREE BIRD!

The King of Siam had nine daughters. He had named the princesses after the months of the year, and his ninth daughter was named Princess September.

All the princesses, except Princess September were arrogant, haughty and ill tempered. Only September was sweet natured.

The King of Siam used to present his daughters expensive gifts on his birthday. One year he gave each of them a beautiful green parrot in a pretty golden cage. The princesses loved their parrots and spent hours teaching their parrots to speak. Some parrots could say "God Save the King" while others could speak words in seven different languages!

One morning Princess September found her parrot dead in its cage. She wept bitterly and went to bed without supper.

Just then a little bird hopped into her room and began to sing melodiously. The stunned Princess stopped crying and was delighted with the bird.

The bird asked her if she would keep him instead of her dead parrot. The princess nodded happily.

Next morning, when the Princess woke up, the bird wished her "Good Morning!" It also shared the breakfast served to her by the maids of honour and then sang beautifully. The maids were delighted. So were the King, Queen and the other Princesses.

The King praised the bird and made disparaging remarks about the parrots. The other Princesses were jealous of Princess September who was entertained by the bird. The bird would however fly in and out of the princess's chamber whenever it wished.

"Do you know where your precious bird is now?" They asked. The princess did not know. "Your bird will leave you someday and never come back. So put him in the golden cage," they advised.

Princess September thought about it. Even after a long wait the bird had not returned. Next day, he flew in and reported that he had to stay back for a party at his father - in - law's place. The bird also said that he was anxious to get back to her because he knew she would be worried and so he had rushed back immediately.

The Princess had made up her mind. She put the bird in the cage

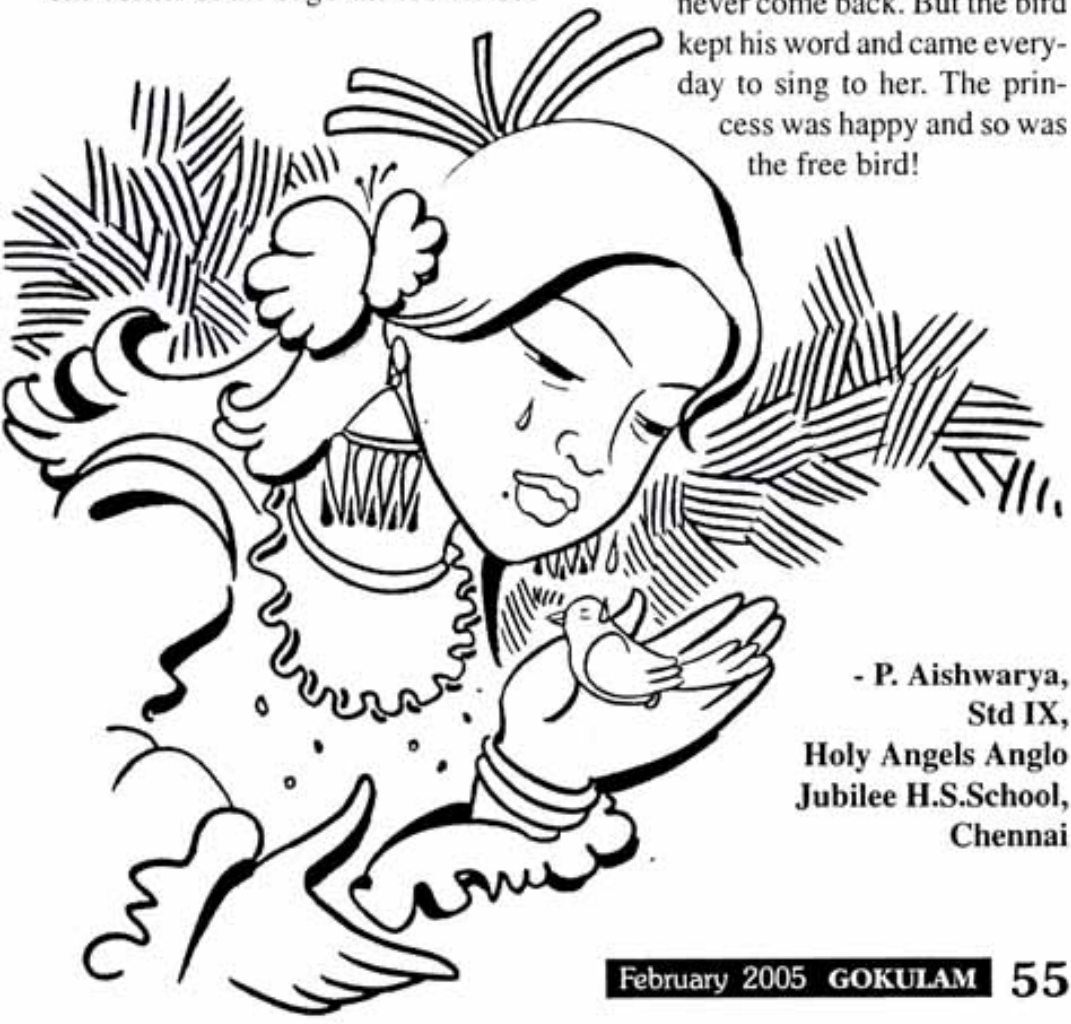
and told him she did not want the Queen's cats to attack him. The bird said he would stay overnight in the cage, on condition that she would let him out the next day. Although he had his supper, he refused to sing saying he did not feel like it.

In the morning the princess refused to let him out although the bird begged her repeatedly. The bird stopped eating and singing. The other princesses told September he would get used to the cage, by and by.

But that was not to be. He stood at one corner of the cage and looked out of the window. Although the princess pleaded with him, he refused to sing saying unless he saw the trees and sky, he could not sing. Soon the bird was lying almost dead in the cage.

The princess was in tears. She took the bird out of the cage. The moment a tear drop fell on the bird, he came to life and weakly requested her to let him free, so that he could sing to her.

The princess loved the bird and did not want him to die. So she set him free. The bird promised to come back to her everyday and sing to her. Her sisters warned her that the bird would never come back. But the bird kept his word and came everyday to sing to her. The princess was happy and so was the free bird!



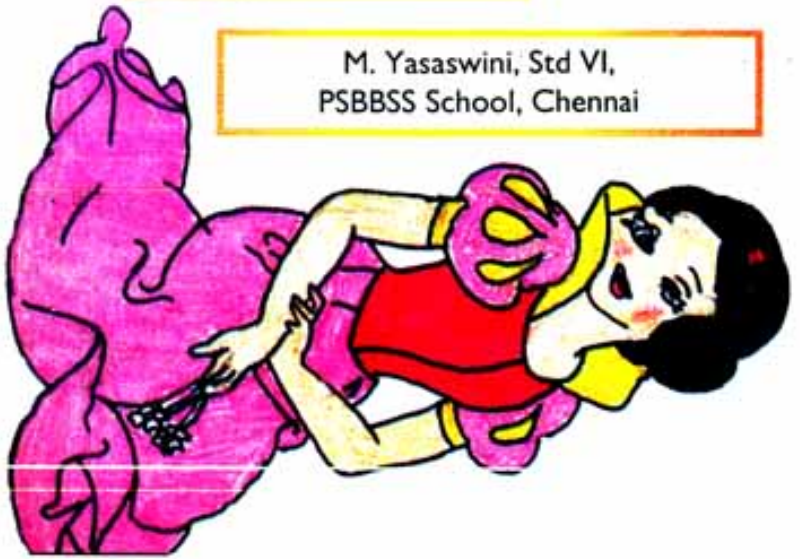
- P. Aishwarya,
Std IX,
Holy Angels Anglo Jubilee H.S.School,
Chennai

ART Gallery

Bhaskaran, Std VI,
St.Vincent High School,Pune

M. Samyuktha, Std VII,
St. Paul's Convent, Davangere

S. Prudivya, Std VI,
Holy Cross Kapa, Chattisgarh



M. Yasaswini, Std VI,
PSBBSS School, Chennai

I. Annie, Std VI,
Vedavalli Vidyalaya, Walajapet. T.N.

BANGALORE Special

BISI BELE BHATH.

Bisi Bela Huliyanna (literally, hot, dal, tamarind rice) is certainly the most popular dish of Bangalore. This spicy dish is nutritious too. Piping hot Bise Bele is a gourmet's delight. Try it out.

INGREDIENTS:

1) Rice - 1 cup
2) Toovar dal - ½ cup
3) Mixed Vegetables - 1 cup (carrots, beans, peas, double beans, raddish etc.)
4) Sambar onions - ½ cup
5) Turmeric powder - ¼ tsp
6) Tamarind - size of a small lime
7) Ghee - ½ cup
8) Curry leaves - 2 - 3 sprigs
9) Tomatoes - 2 -3
10) Salt to taste

MASALA:

1) Cinnamon - 1"stick
2) Red chillies - 3 - 4
3) Pepper, Jeera - 1tsp each
4) Urad dal - 1tsp
5) Coriander seeds - 2½ tsps
6) Channa dal - 2 tsps
7) Copra (grated) - ¾ cup

GARNISHING:

Capsicum - 1 cup
Groundnuts - ½ cup
Mustard - ½ tsp

HOT 'N SPICY!

Akila, please send us your address immediately.

METHOD:

Roast masalas. Separately roast the grated copra on a low flame until light brown. Powder them and keep aside.

Pressure cook dal, rice and vegetables with sufficient water, salt and turmeric powder. When done, add the tamarind extract and let it boil well. Add the masala powder. Keep stirring and boil a little longer.

Heat ghee in a kadai, splutter mustard seeds. Add curry leaves and groundnuts and fry for sometime. Then add finely chopped capsicum and sambar onions. Lastly add the tomatoes.

Add this garnishing to the rice, dal and vegetable mixture.

Serve hot with potato chips or khara boondi.

- A.Akila, Bangalore

• **S. Lakshmi, Chennai**

? Is it true that consuming certain fruits could lead to (common) cold?

! Fruits do not cause a cold. Common cold is caused by a variety of viruses. Usually it is caused by a strain of rhinovirus. The virus is generally transmitted through the air, in other words it is air-borne.

Sneezing and coughing by an infected person, hand-to-hand contact (handshakes etc.) or when an uninfected person touches an object (a book or a telephone) with live viruses on it and then touches one's nose, one can contract a cold. It mainly affects the upper respiratory tract and mostly does not require treatment. The major symptoms of cold are, burning and a tickling sensation in the nose, blocked nose with watery discharge, sneezing, tearful eyes, sore throat, low fever and body ache.

Nasal allergy can give rise to similar symptoms. If somebody is allergic to a particular fruit, he may have nasal congestion, watery nasal discharge and sneezing when he eats that fruit. This condition is called "allergic rhinitis". Some proteins in the natural fruits as well as some azo-dyes such as tartazine, amaranth and erythrocin in the preserved fruits act as antigens inducing similar antigen - antibody reactions in the nose and also in the gastro - intestinal tract. As a result, the mast cells in the nasal mucosa release the chemical called histamine which leads to sneezing and a watery nasal

ALLERGIES &

discharge. We can identify the fruit to which we are allergic. Elimination of the particular fruit from our diet could prevent nasal allergies.

• **Shivani Deshpande, Korba**

? Is obesity a disease?

! Yes, obesity, or being very fat and overweight, is a disease. Generally it is a middle age malady. However, youngsters can be obese too. Obesity can be caused by several factors, genetic or

hereditary; hormonal problems, high fat diet or lack of exercise. An obese person is highly prone to various health problems like diabetes, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, stroke, heart attack, gallstones, snoring, cancer etc.

- **Himanshi Sahu, Chattisgarh.**

? What is colour blindness? How is it caused? Is there any cure?

! Colour blindness is a hereditary disease characterised by an inability to distinguish clearly the colours of the spectrum. In most cases it is not actually blindness, but a weakness in perceiving colours distinctly. There are two types of colour blindness. Daltonism is the more common one and is characterised by an inability to distinguish red from green. It is an inherent disorder. Total colour blindness or achromatic vision is charecterised by an inability to perceive any colour at all. Only white, grey and black are visible.

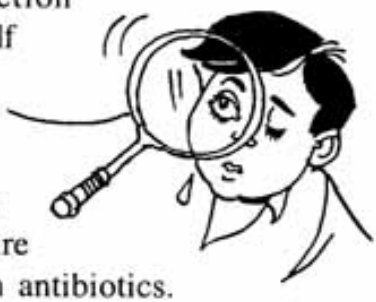
In human beings, the retina of the eye contains certain highly specialized colour cells called cones. These are very essential for distinguishing red from green colour. A defect in or absence of cones results in colour blindness. As to hereditary colour blindness, females are carriers of the disease and males are affected persons. There is no cure for colour blindness at present.

- **G. Rajendra Prasath, Neyveli.**

? I am fifteen. I frequently suffer from a stye on the eye. What is the best treatment for it?

INFECTIONS

! When the oil glands present under the skin of the eyelids get infected, a stye is formed. Usually treatment is not necessary and the infection 'clears' by itself in a couple of days. Sometimes it may persist and may require treatment with antibiotics. In some cases like yours, it may recur and get hardened. In such cases, the pus has to be drained by a minor surgical procedure.



PROVIDENCE

AT THE FAIR

Our school held a 'mela' (fair) to celebrate school day. Our class was assigned the task of preparing and selling 'vadas'. (Coupons were sold to the 'customers' comprising of students, parents and other guests and we had to carefully hand over the coupons collected to our teacher at the end of the day.)

The much awaited day arrived. my parents were busy and could not attend the fair. So I was given Rs.30/- with specific instructions to save Rs.10/- for my bus fare back home. However, I realised that I had spent all my money on the tempting fare on sale and the games.

I borrowed some money from my teacher and got back home. Sure enough, my mother scolded me. I felt ashamed that I had been a spendthrift.

Imagine my surprise, the next day, when my teacher gave each of us Rs.22/- as our share of the profit from the sale proceeds! But I still feel one should exercise thrift and not give in to temptation.

- Ramya Nagarajan,
Std VII, K.V.No.1,
Jalahalli-West,
Bangalore

BURGLARY AVERTED!

I was on a visit to Shimoga spending my vacation with my cousins, Abhiram (my age) and his older brother, Anirudh. There was a vacant plot next door.

Anirudh went for early morning walks everyday while we were dozing. We wanted to go with him too. We all slept in the hall, together. Abhiram and I decided that we would keep awake all night so that we could accompany Anirudh the next morning. If one of us dozed off, the other would pinch the person awake!

Abhiram pinched me and turned over. I noticed a torch light being flashed on the opposite house. I pointed it out to Abhiram. We assumed the torch-light had been switched on for a specific purpose

by the inmates of that house.

However, suddenly, the light went off and then flashed on Anirudh's

shoulder and then on my face. Immediately it was switched off and we heard a tinkling sound.

Next morning we saw some foot prints and the car cover was removed. Some iron rods were scattered on the terrace.

Apparently, burglars had entered the compound from the plot next door and tried to steal the car. But when they found us awake, they decided to escape via the terrace leaving their tools behind.

- Aathreya S.Bhat, Std VII,
Shiksha Sagar School,
Bangalore

DAD'S LIFE SAVED

When I was in Std VIII, this unforgettable incident occurred. We had just returned from a trip to Tirupati. My brother had left for his coaching class.

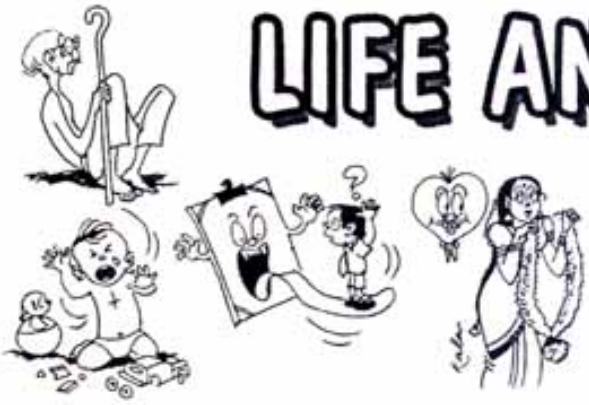
My father suddenly took ill. He started vomiting and complained of chest pain and left hand ache - all signs of heart trouble. My mother requested our neighbours (and their sons) to fetch an auto quickly from the auto stand, a kilometer away. But they gave flimsy excuses and declined us help.

I had never been to the autostand before, but my mother was desperate and so she was forced to send me

alone. I rushed and fetched an autorickshaw. We were able to admit my father into the hospital just in time to save his life. We dread to think what could have happened due to our neighbours' callous behaviour.

- M. Aruna,
Bangalore

LIFE AND DEATH



LIVE FOR TODAY!

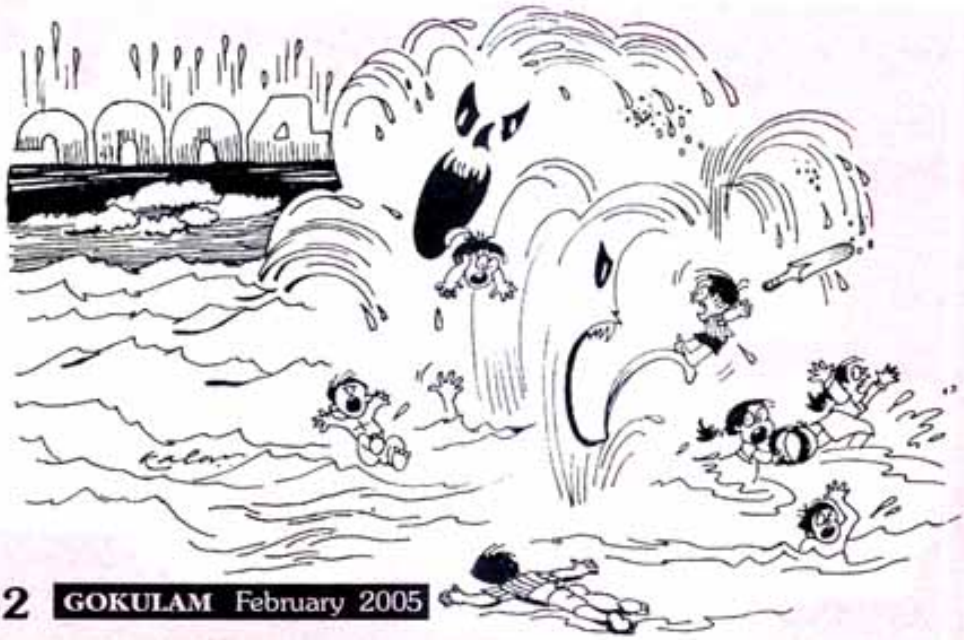
Is there a heart without sorrow?
Or a mind without worries about tomorrow?
Are there eyes which do not shed tears?
Or a heart without fear?

A child may be worried about toys,
It's exams for young girls and boys.
Youth may be concerned about their marriage,
Thoughts of life and death nags people of old age.

For worries are indeed like one's shadow,
Following us wherever we go.
The only solution is not to worry about the morrow,
For destiny will take care of tomorrow.

Yesterday was history,
Tomorrow is a mystery,
So let's live for today
And be merry, happy and gay!

- Reyomi Roy,
Std IX, AECS -1,
Mumbai



NAMMA BENGALURU

Bengaluru, Bangalore,
Kempegowda's dream - city
Bangalore
The 'Garden city' and 'IT city'
The Silicon Valley of India is a beauty!

A fusion of all cultures and people
A revival of traditional dance and
music.

Await the Bangalore Habba
celebrations,
For all eyes and ears a joyous
occasion!

With 'Karaga' and
'Kodalekayie porhe'
'Namma Bengaluru' is a
wonderful city!

- K. Madhavi, Std V,
Niveditha School, Bangalore.

NATURE AT PLAY

(Dedicated to people who lost their lives in the Killer Tsunami on Dec.26th 2004)

At the end of the year,
Jus' before New Year,
During the holidays,
When the children play,
Nature! Is this your playtime too?
So many lives have been taken by
you,
Killing innocent people and going
away,
Leaving the land in disarray,
And looking unconcernedly the
other way,
Surely, this isn't fair play!

Nature! Everyone is worrying,
As a tsunami will you visit again?
If yes, please come mildly;
If not, thanks a lot, really!

- B. Sakthy Sangeetha Devi,
Std VII, Shri Sankara Vidyalaya
H.S.School,
Tambaram(E), Chennai

Man(hit by car): Help! Help! Call me an ambulance! Please call me an ambulance.

Passerby: Okay, you are an ambulance!

- R.Muruganantham, Std X, Mumbai

Mohan: Uncle, did you meet my father in the office today?

Mr.Ram: No. He has been transferred to another branch.

Mohan: When did your company shift its office to a tree?!

- K.Priya Durga, Std IX, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Chennai

Mohini: Here's the sum you wanted me to do. I checked it ten times.

Teacher : That's very good.

Mohini : Here are the ten answers!

- Aiswarya Sureshan, Std IX, Frank Anthony Public School, Bangalore

Teacher : Bindu, are you able to follow the lesson?

Bindu : No, ma'am... The lesson isn't moving!

- P.Ananth Ram, Age 13, Hyderabad.

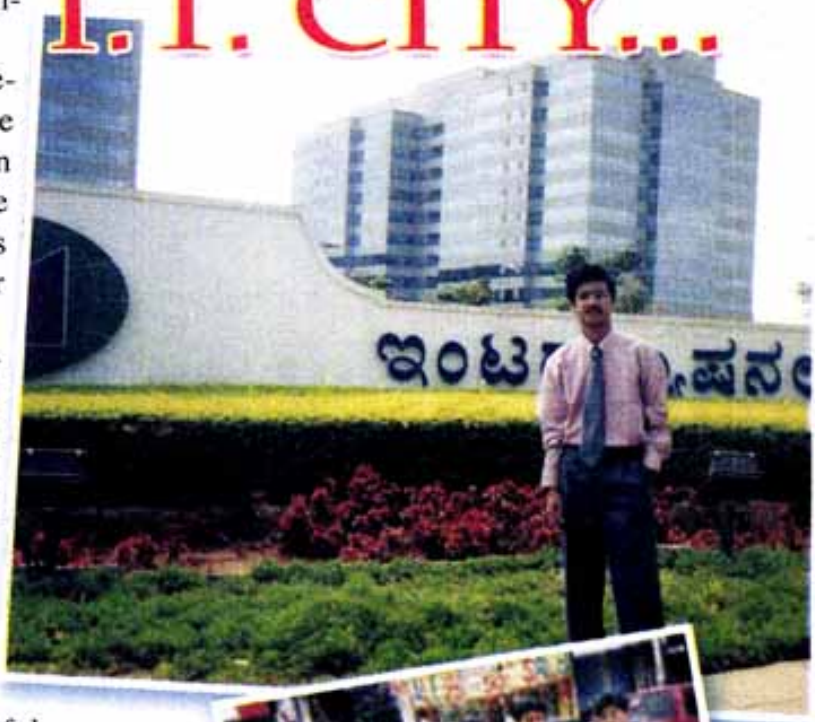
BANGALORE *Special*

OVER TO I.T. CITY...

Ask an old timer about Bangalore and he'll be nostalgic about the good old days when the city was known as the 'Airconditioned city' 'Pensioners' Paradise' or 'Garden city of India.' Talk to the bunch of teenaged giggly girls walking down M.G.Road and they'll tell you about their 'Fashion City'. Bump into the foreigners, who'll confirm that they are on a visit to the Silicon Valley of India, the I.T. City!

Obviously somewhere down the line this transformation has come about! We talked to some kids to find out their views.

The younger ones still talk about Lalbagh and Cubbon Park where there is plenty of place to play and go on toy train rides. The lush green lawns, the glass house and the colourful flowering plants and trees exist; a stark contrast to the smoke and pollution outside. "The Vishweshwaraya museum is wonderful you can actually see how things work" said a budding scientist.



Eight year old Surya enthused about his visit to Bannerghata National park just 22 kms. from the city. He talked at length about the Tiger Safari and elephants.

Fifteen year old, Kiran, studying in Std X of PPEC, on the other hand talks about Bangalore as the premier centre for education in the country. The Indian Institute of Science, IIM and the Law School are a few examples. "Nehru once called Bangalore 'The city of the future' and it has certainly grown into one of the major industrial centres in India today" he continues.

Yes, beginning with Indian Telephone Industry (ITI) established in 1948, Bangalore can now boast of several industries, notable amongst them being the HAL, which manufactures Light Combat Aircrafts (LCA), Bharat Electronics, Bharat Earth Movers etc. Of course, Bangalore can also be called the "Switzerland of India" or literally the "Timekeepers to the Nation,' since both HMT and Titan, watch manufacturers, are located here!

Susheil Daryanani boasts about the markets and shopping malls of his birthplace. "Youngsters like to shop on Commercial Street, Brigade Road and M.G. Road. We love eating roasted peanuts and corn, an activity called 'Time Pass'," he says.

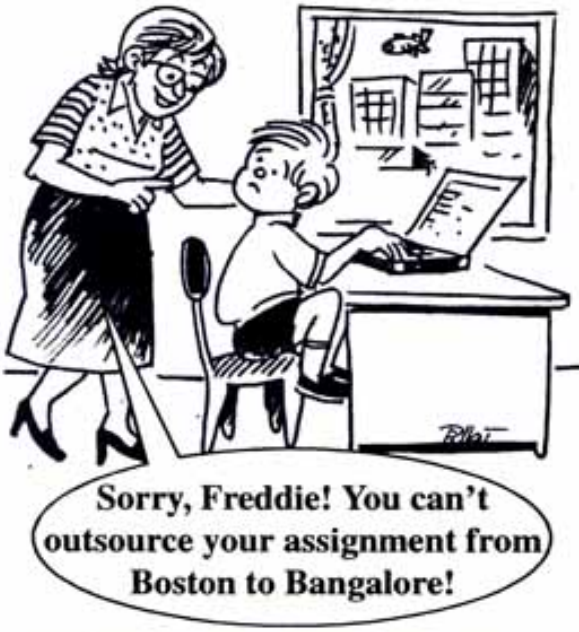
His sibling, Krishna chips in. "My city has a very pleasant climate. No earthquakes or tsunamis here! It has so many skyscrapers, flyovers (including Hebbal flyover, the largest one) and multiplexes. In fact, India's largest toy store called 'Toys Kemp" is in Bangalore!" Incidentally, India's largest bookstall, Sapna Book Stall is on K.G.Road.

After books, we move on to art and culture. The recently concluded Bangalore Habba, the festival of dance, music, puppet shows and drama and the Karaga Festival on Kempegowda day, stand testimony to the cultural aspects of the city. The Chowdiah Memorial Hall is built in

the shape of a violin in memory of violinist Chowdiah. Sindhu V. Rao talks about the places of worship in the city, the ISKCON temple & Bull Temple at Basavangudi which are unique and renowned.

Today, Bangalore is better known as the 'IT City' or Silicon Valley of India. Infact the City's I.T. Park is famous the world over. V.I.Ps of many countries skip even the national capital and make a beeline to this city! All the I.T. and electronics giants like Infosys, Wipro and Motorola are based in the city.

Most advanced countries 'outsource' their work to Bangalore. So much so, in the US if your job is out sourced to India, you've been Bangalored!(American slang) Reecently when the economy in the West was bad, and jobs were scarce Americans lashed out at the 'Indian Villains' by wearing "Don't Get Bangalored" T-shirts! Bangaloreans are working round the clock to cope with work outsourced from several countries because of the time difference between the East and West. Renowned novelist R.K. Narayanan rightly said (predicted?) "Living in Bangalore, no one can complain of a dull moment!"



Thirteen year old M.Shiva Prakash of Sudarshan Vidya Mandir says, it was Kempe Gowda who built the city in 1537. "He had great dreams for the city." But it is doubtful whether even in his wildest dreams he would have visualised this global city - the I.T. city that still remains a Garden City!

Compiled from contributions sent in by:

Surya, Susheil, Krishna, Kiran, Shivaprakash and Sindhu, Bangalore

* HAL's Aerospace Museum

REWARD OR PUNISHMENT?

Story : Rajalakshmi **Illustration : Pillai**

At once Mr. Jackal who was watching...

O King, Mr. Monkey is lying. I'm the one who found them. Give me the trees.

Prove it to me first!

You may send your slaves to my den and ask them to fetch the bunnies.

Slaves! Go and fetch them.

Your highness! The... trees...

A kidnapper deserves punishment, not reward.

You must give me the best trees in the forest.

Mr. Jackal begged forgiveness and escaped punishment.

Thank you, my lord!

LEARNING IS FUN!

Chhotu Tames a Tiger and other stories by Anant Pai
Publishers:
Lalit Media &Education Ltd., Worli, Mumbai-25

This interesting book for children has eight stories in verse (poetry) form. Some of these poems are suitable for singing too.

They are meant for 5 - 8 year olds, but even much younger children will enjoy them if grown ups or elder siblings read out to them.

The stories all end on a happy note!

The pictures are bright and the author has used familiar characters.

Price Rs. 25/-

Uncle Pai's Fun Way To Learn
Publishers:
Lalit Media & Education Ltd.,Worli, Mumbai-25

This book lives up to its name. It is packed with puzzles, questions and facts that will not only entertain children, but sharpen their intellect. The areas covered include mathematics, science, history, geography and even tests children's power of observation.

The book can be used by children. or adults as a relaxation from routine

Price Rs.40/-

SOLUTION TO SPOT IT RIGHT 13

Lokmanya Balgangadhar Tilak

Congratulations!

The five lucky winners are:

1. S. Divya, Std X, Summerfields School, Gurgaon, Haryana
2. A. Aakash, Std II, BEM School, Belpahar, Orissa.
3. Supriya Gopalan, Std V, Heritage Private School, Umassal, Cyprus
4. Akshay D. Kotian, Std X, St.Joseph's School, Margao
5. V. Sandhya, Std IV, K.W.T (CBSE) Raichur

CHAMPION OF THE MASSES!

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was born in 1891 into a Harijan ('untouchables') family. A caste ridden society could not prevent him from becoming a role model in society - a true champion of the millions belonging to the oppressed class.

Popularly known as Babasaheb, he dedicated his life to remove the stigma of humiliation and secure human rights for the harijans. A brilliant lawyer, politician and educationist, he was a crusader of social justice. When Gandhiji went on a fast in Yerwada jail in 1932 to protest against the communal award granted by the British, Babasaheb compromised on his ideals to save Gandhiji's life and signed the Poona Pact, thus proving his greatness.

> In December 1929, at the Congress Lahore session, it was decided to declare 'Poorna Swaraj' on Jan. 26, 1930. Jan. 26th, was chosen as Republic Day, as a symbol of India's Independence.

He was the architect of the Indian constitution. It was on 26 January 1950, that the Indian constitution which describes India as a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic was enforced and India was declared a 'Republic'. Since then this day is being celebrated as 'Republic day'.

> ***Did you know?***
> *Our Constitution is the most detailed Constitution in the world Until July 2004, it had 22 Parts, 395 Articles and twelve Schedules.*

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was also the first law minister of free India in Nehru's cabinet (1947-51). He was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1990 for his contributions to Indian society.

In 1956, India lost a great leader in Babasahab Ambedkar. This Republic Day let us remember the man who contributed so much to frame our Constitution and may his words "lost rights are never regained by begging and appeals to the conscience of the usurpers, but by relentless struggle", echo in the minds of every citizen!

- Avantika R.Kannan, Std.IX, Vidya Mandir, Chennai

BREATHTAKING PARADISE!

Bangalore, Karnataka's capital, is a picturesque city with parks and tree lined avenues dominated by the colours green, red, orange and yellow - a breathtaking paradise, indeed. Come to this city which has a salubrious climate, throughout the year. Relax and take a break!

Visit Lalbagh, laid out by Hyder Ali, who imported trees and plants from several countries. The 'glass house' built on the lines of London's crystal place is the centre of attraction of this 2400 acre park. It plays host to the Biannual Flower Show on the eve of Republic Day and Independence Day.

Cubbon Park is a major attraction too with fairy fountains, lush green lawns, vibrant flower beds, Attara kacheri, aquarium, (second largest in the country), Jawaharlal Bal Bhavan with its mini theater and toy train and the museum. The Vishweshwaraya Industrial and Technological Museum is a 'must see'. So also is the Venkatappa Art Gallery.

To the northern boundary of the Cubbon Park is the splendid Vidhana Soudha, the seat of the legislature. This Neo - Dravidian granite building with its sandal wood door of the cabinet room, is a spectacular piece of architecture.

The Ulsoor Lake, with a couple of islands, has boating facility. It was constructed by Kempegowda II.

Also visit the Bangalore palace built by Chamaraja Wodeyar and Tipu Sultan's palace. Tipu's palace is a two storeyed ornate wooden

BANGALORE *Special*

structure with carved pillars, arches and balconies and was his favourite summer retreat.

The Nehru Planetarium which hosts daily astronomy shows, is a visual treat for everyone. So also is the Indira Gandhi Musical fountain where colourful dancing and musical fountain shows are held.

HAL's Heritage Centre and Aerospace Museum attracts students, flying enthusiasts and tourists alike.

The ISKCON temple atop a hill, the Bull temple and the gigantic statue of Lord Shiva (on Airport Road) contribute to the spiritual atmosphere of the city. The Bull Temple has a monolithic 15 feet high and 20 feet long, bull! 'Kadalakayi Parishe' is celebrated here even to this day.

Wildlife enthusiasts can venture into Bannerghata National Park just 22kms from the city. Lion safari, Serpentarium, Picnic Corner and Pets Corner are major attractions.

We welcome you all to our wonderful paradise.

- M. Shiva Prakash, Std VIII,
Sudarshan Vidya Mandir,
Bangalore

THE OVER-RADIANT SURYA!

Usha, the daughter of the Protector of the Universe fell in love with Surya (the sun god) and wanted to marry him. Her father agreed to approach Surya with the marriage proposal. Surya accepted.

Soon they were happily married. By and by, Usha gave birth to a son whom they named Manu. Manu grew up to be a handsome boy and mastered the Vedas and Upanishads. His parents showered a lot of affection on him.

One day, Surya shone more brightly than normal. All the rivers, lakes and ponds dried up. Humans couldn't bear it. So much so, even Surya's beloved wife couldn't tolerate him. When Surya saw Usha turn away, he was furious. He cursed her.

"Like humans, you could not withstand my rays. So you shall have a son, who will be the cause of every human's death!"

Usha was shocked. She started fidgeting. This enraged Surya even more. He cursed her again.

"May you have a daughter who'll always be as restless as you are now!"

Usha gave birth to Yama, the God of Death and Yamuna, the 'restless' river. Usha was saddened. When the children were old enough to look after themselves, she left home.

During her journey she looked into a river and saw her own 'Chaaya' (Shadow). She requested Chaaya to go to Surya's abode as her substitute. Chaaya agreed and left. Usha assumed the form of a mare and wandered around.

Surya did not realise that Chaaya was not Usha. However, Yama, the god of Death and Manu the Lawgiver were not fooled as they could distinguish between the real and a shadow.

In the meantime, Chaaya gave birth to two children. She ill-treated Manu, Yama and Yamuna. Once, when she hit Yamuna, Yama was angered and reported the truth about Chaaya to Surya. Surya questioned Chaaya and she spilled the beans.

Surya was repentant. He went to

Usha's father and begged forgiveness. Usha agreed to go back to Surya if he would cut off his eighth ray which had caused destruction. Surya agreed and cut it off.

Thus Surya's radiance is bearable and infact beneficial to the survival of the human race.

Retold by :
C. Jayaram, Std IX,
St.John's English School,
Chennai

SPOT IT RIGHT 14

Rules and Regulations

• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed picture and answer accepted on this form only • No xerox copies.

Last Date : 10.02.2005

Assemble the six scrambled jigsaw pieces to complete the picture and write the answer.

Hint : "Tiger of Mysore" who fought the British.

ANSWER : _____

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

.....

.....Pin .....

Signature : .....

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings, 47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

Space for completed picture

QUIZ WHIZ!

Meet twelve year old Shachit Iyer who beat about 17,000 kids to become runnerup at the India's Child Genius Show (Star World Channel) and won Rs.8.4 Lakhs! This little guy from Mumbai has topped 11 national level contests and several state level tests. His mom, (an M.Sc in Chemistry) and dad, a lecturer of mathematics rattle off Shachit's success story and how they egged him on. But let's find out what this go - getter has to say.

Congrats Shachit! Did you think you'd win? How about your parents?

Yes, I had aimed for the first position, for I was already a performer even before " India's Child Genius" and I had already stood "All India First Rank" in 11 different national level exams. My parents inspired me and gave me the confidence to achieve.

Were you overawed by Basu when you met him for the first time?

Yes, I was thrilled and excited to meet Mr. Siddharth Basu. (Infact, even my mother is a fan of his.)

When did you take to quizzing? (age)

I actually started quizzing in school in my 4th Std. But even before that, I used to quiz with my mother, right from the age of five.

You must have worked really hard to prepare for the contest. Did you set apart several hours a day, subject - wise?

My parents planned and gave me a list of questions. I learnt the answers of atleast 1200 – 1500 questions per day and I learnt

around one lakh questions in all!

Many Gokulam readers want to enrich their memory power. Tell me Shachit, how do you manage to remember what you read?

I have a good grasping power but one has to involve and develop interest in what they read so that it stays in their mind. Infact, yoga and meditation improves concentration, but I am yet to follow that practice vigorously.

Some readers say that they seem to remember their lessons, but forget the answers once they enter the exam hall. Any tips for them?

They have to close the books and try to recollect the answers in their mind before going to the exam hall and be confident.

Could you name a few other contests you have won at the national level?

I have won " All India First Rank" in 11 different National level contests like Science Olympiad, Cyber Olympiad(for which I have won a Laptop), Unified council, UNO exams, Australian scholarship, DAV Talent Search Exam etc. and also stood first in Maharashtra in several exams.

Obviously you need to be an expert on a wide range of topics ranging from sports to current affairs, academics to mythology. Do you watch a lot of T.V. programmes, surf the net or read a lot?

I read a lot.

What are the T.V. programs you detest and why?

I do not like serials and cartoon network which I feel reduces the memory power.

Apart from quiz books and encyclopedia, do you read any books, say Harry Potter?

I do read a few story books, but I don't like Harry Potter.

I watched the finals of the Britannia contest, and felt it was sheer bad luck that you ended up being runner - up. Do you think quizzing has a lot to do with luck, knowledge, confidence, memory power or just keeping your cool?

Yes, quizzing needs wide knowledge, memory power, confidence and luck in that order.

Were you very disappointed

that you did not win?

I was a bit disappointed at that moment and of course for a few days but pretty soon I thought that there are several milestones to cross and achieve in future.

Well, all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy! Do you get time to play? Do you have siblings or friends?

I do not have siblings. I have friends and I take time to play everyday.

Are they proud of you or jealous? (Be honest!)

Most of them are very proud of me, but few of them are jealous too!

I'm sure your teachers are very proud of you. Has your school acknowledged your achievements?

My school has encouraged me a lot by giving free access to the library, giving leave of absence etc. and so the credit goes to my school also.

Who is your idol?

My idol has always been Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, even before he had become our President. The twelve finalists of "India's child Genius" were taken to the Rashtrapathi Bhavan to meet our President and I was elated to meet my role model. I admired his simplicity and his quest for knowledge. I asked him a question: " If education is costly and not available to middle and lower sections, how will India become a Superpower ?" He answered that there was a 50% reservation for meritorious students in Government Institutions.

What do you aspire to be?

I want to become an IIT computer software engineer.

All the best for the future! Do you think you can achieve a lot in India or will you leave the country (to do research abroad)?

I may leave the country to do research abroad, but wherever I am and whatever I may achieve, the credit will always go to our India.

Any message for Gokulam readers? By the way are you a Gokulam reader?

I am a Gokulam Reader and my message is " Work hard, pray and have faith in God and respect your elders. Everything else will come your way!

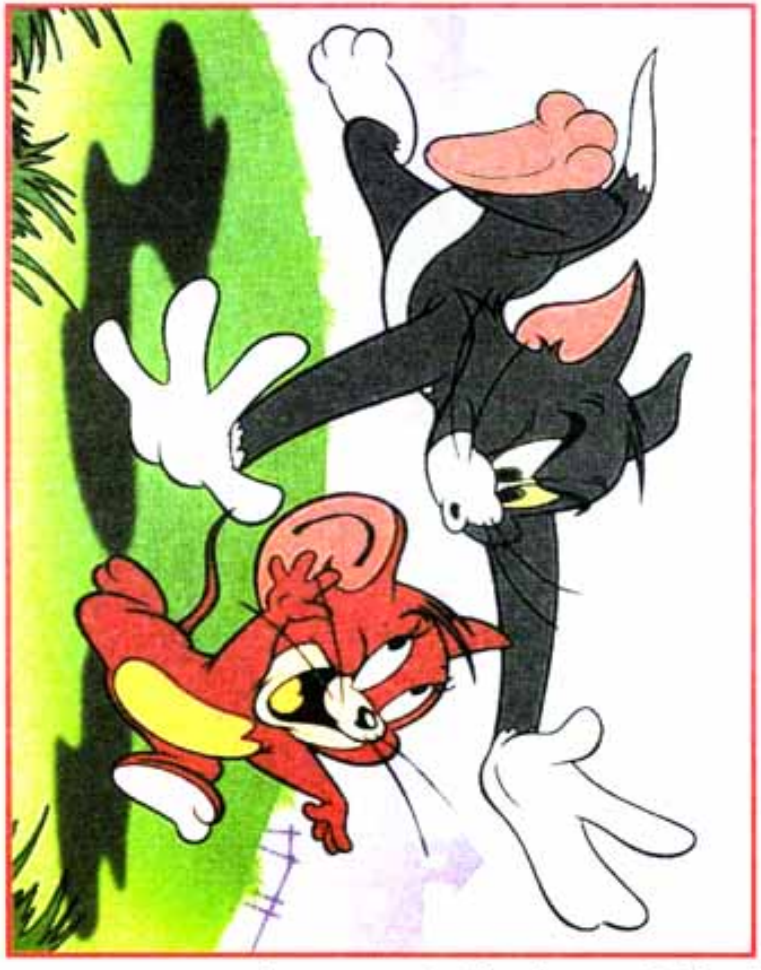
Interviewed by **Priya Ravi**

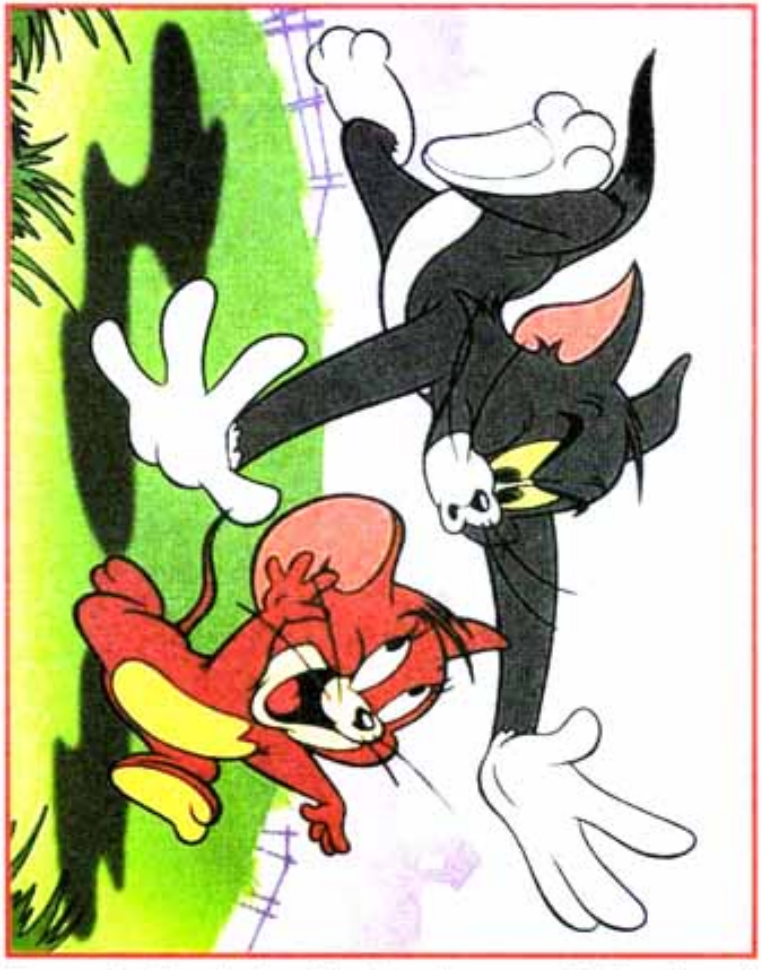
SUPER IDEA!

Story: Srira Ravivarman Pic: Shekhar

and were friends. One day both of them went to the . Suddenly the darkened and it began to Clever picked a nearby and used it as an . Poor asked if he could share his . "There is only one small . How can both of us share it and go ?" asked of . "If I get drenched in the , mom will beat me", sobbed who reached the , just then, enquired what was wrong. "I'll give you an . If you act accordingly both of you can reach , without getting wet in the ," said . " ?" and chorused. " , you hold the in your hand. , you carry ". Then both of you will be protected from the suggested. "Wow! Super and said, thanked and happily left for without getting drenched in the

SPOT THE TEN DIFFERENCES!





Answers: 1. Tom's eye 2. Tom's finger 3. Tom's foot 4. Tom's nose 5. Tom's tail 6. Jerry's whisker 7. Jerry's tongue 8 Jerry's foot 9. Jerry's ear 10. Fence

Registered with the Registrar of Newspaper of India under No. 49668/88 * Registered No. TN / PMG (CCR) 492 / 03 - 05*
Licensed to post without prepayment under PMG's Licence No. WPP 301 / 03 - 05 * Registered as a Newspaper in Srilanka

MILKA

WONDER CAKE

அற்புதமான ஆறு சுவைகளில்